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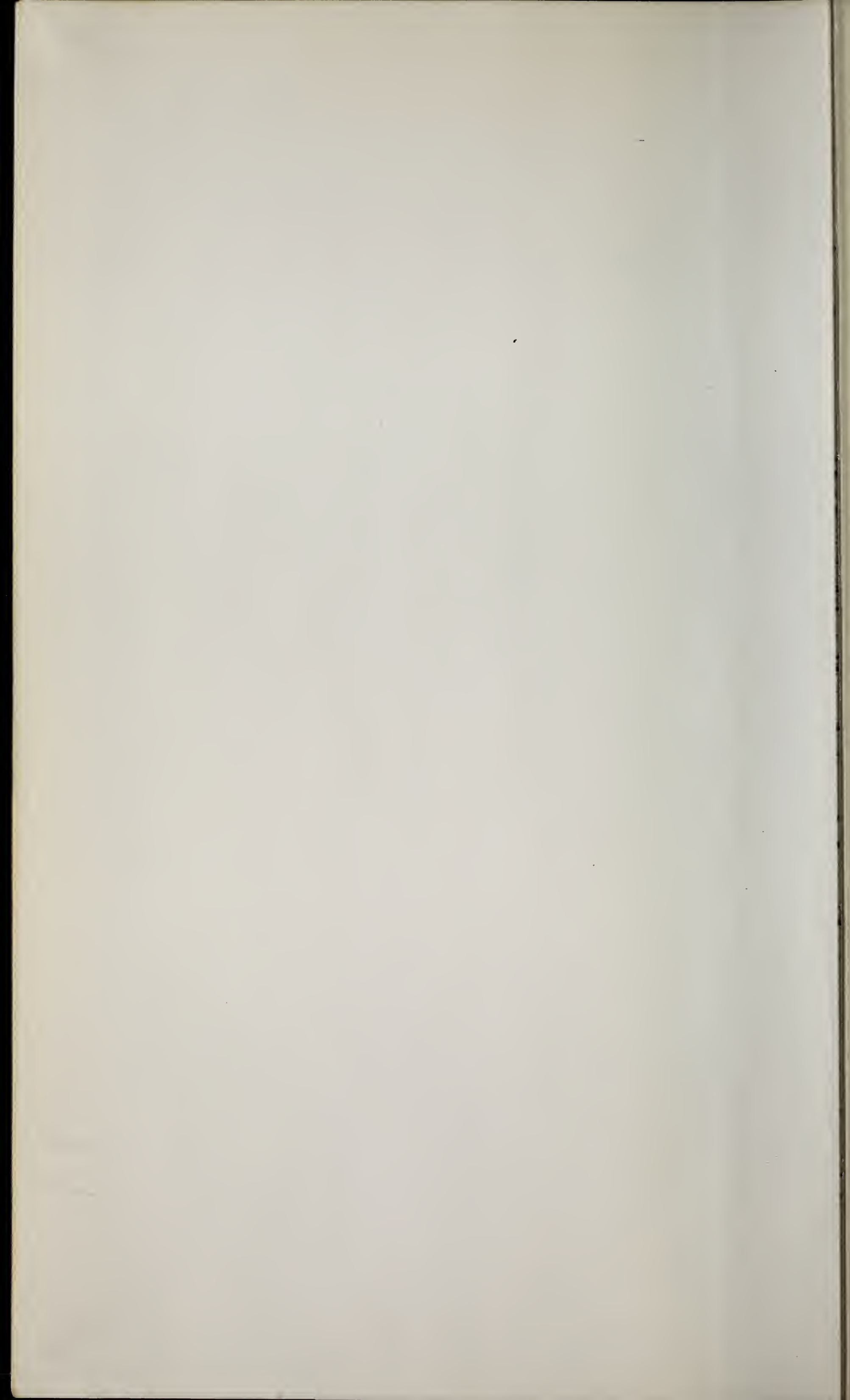


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Chief Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea)

The larger picture is from the celebrated English Romney portrait, the inset from the American Ames likeness painted shortly before Brant's death in 1807.

The
BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

by
Inez Brant-Leonard
and
Harry Townley Brant



Yonandip

WILLOW GLEN PRESS
San Jose, California
1953

Copyright November, 1953
by
Inez Brant-Leonard

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All history is founded primarily upon, and, begins with tradition. Lacking authentic written records, we are compelled to resort to the verbal statements handed down by our fathers although they smack somewhat of a legendary character.

I am compelled then, to begin this narrative with the statements as given me by my father.

It was the ambition of father during his entire life, to assemble and compile in chronological form, a complete history of our family. He was continually collecting facts, dates, and other information which he sometime intended using for this purpose. However he was a busy man, and although his intentions were good, he continually neglected to assemble this data in anything like a uniform manner.

I remember numberless boxes, note books, etc., which father treasured above all other possessions. These he kept faithfully, during most of his lifetime, but at the time of his death a large number of these records disappeared before I could gain possession of them. I was fortunate to fall heir to one black tin box which contained the most valued papers, marriage licenses, old papers, and other documents.

If I had only realized the importance of the contents of these many boxes, which were lost during the latter days of father's life, and gained possession of them, it would have been a great deal easier for me to prepare this record which has developed into a lifetime task.

I remember the Family Bible of the Brants with the age old records of births, deaths and marriages, between its covers.

The record from this Bible was in the possession of my sister Mabel after father's death. What she did with it I do not know, but fortunately I had copied it sometime before.

In Lincoln, Illinois, in May, 1916, I began the assembly of these records and data in the form of a family history. I have traveled extensively to check on the accuracy of the information. I have visited court houses, burial places, sites of extinct towns and camp sites. By the examination of deeds, inscriptions on tombstones and reading many books and histories, I am positive that the record in the following pages is truthful and correct.

Harry T. Brant

Great Names

These are the Great Names in the Brant Hall of Fame.

Sebastian Brant was a German, born at Strasburg about 1457. He studied at Basle and took a degree of Doctor of Law in 1489. He is now famous and known for his Satire "Das Narrenschiff" (The Ship of Fools). He died May 10, 1521.

Isabella Brant is known as the wife of the great painter, Rubens and as the model for many of his paintings.

Chief Joseph Brant of the Mohawks is known to fame as a Great Indian. This history tells his story.

Mary or Mollie Brant was the sister of Chief Joseph Brant. She married Sir William Johnson. Margaret Widdemer has written a novel about their romance. In "The Lady of the Mohawks", Miss Widdemer has a rare insight of the Indian and his way of life.

Karl Brandt, born in Darmstadt, Germany, June 15, 1828, died December 27, 1881, was a child of parents of modest circumstances. The theater was his love and profession, and when Richard Wagner devised the world-famous Festspielhaus at Bayreuth, Bavaria, he called Karl Brandt to have complete charge of all matters pertaining to the equipment of the stage. Brandt devised the many illusions necessary for "The Ring", and for the last and greatest of the Wagnerian works, "Parsifal".

Fritz Brant, son of Karl Brant, succeeded his father at Bayreuth and in the same capacity, dying in 1884.

Coats - Armour

Many Coats-Armour have been granted to those bearing the Brent or Brant or Brandt name, and in various Countries.

The Coat-Armour described in detail in this history is the one used by LeRoy V. Brant, of San Jose, California.

The drawing depicting the early Indian Story and early tribes was found on what appeared to be an old Masonic apron.

The Encyclopedia of Heraldry by Burke should be consulted by those who wish further to pursue the subject.



MEMORANDUM RELATING TO THE HISTORY AND COAT-ARMOUR OF THE ANCIENT FAMILY OF

BRANT

The hereditary surname of Brant is derived from a village formerly of the same designation, but now called Brant-Broughton, a little village and parish in Lincolnshire, England, in which the family lived in early days when surnames first became hereditary. This Village, which is still in existence, has a population of about 600 souls. It is located about eight miles from the town of Newark, in Lincolnshire, where the Brant Post Office is located. In the year 1602, as the records prove, the family was seated at Birchington, in the county of Kent, which is about three miles from the popular sea-side resort of Margate, and about seventy miles from London. The Church at Birchington is ancient, which, with its annexed chapel contain some fine monuments and ancient memorial brasses. The records of this Church doubtless contain numerous entries relating to the baptisms, marriages and burials of members of the Brant family for many generations. Like most other British surnames, the designation of this family terminated in the vowel "e", it having been anciently spelt Brante.

The family of Brant was included among the Gentry of Great Britain and both a Coat of Arms and Crest were granted to its members as hereditary badges of honour. The beautiful simplicity of the shield betokens ancient lineage for the older Arms are the simpler they are and the more highly are they prized in consequence.

The official **Blazon** of record is thus described:

Arms: Gules a fesse indented argent and a chief or.

Crest: A lion passant or.

Motto: Honour * Truth * Courage.

The **Fesse**, which crosses the shield in its center, is the origin of the military waist-belt, is an emblem of high honour, and denotes dignity, and valiant and valuable service rendered by its first bearer. It implies that he who bears it must be always in readiness for the service of the public weal. The indented edges of the fesse point to dangers and difficulties encountered and triumphantly surmounted.

The **Chief** is the most honourable of the few Honourable Ordinaries of Heraldry, for, being at the head of the shield, it has the place of highest honour. It typifies eminent service rendered to the State, not merely in a military but also in a civil capacity.

The **Lion** is the emblem of deathless courage, and, consequently, is a great favourite with the Heralds and also with those families whom the King delighteth to honour. It denotes also strength, fortitude and initiative. "The Lyon", says Sir John Ferne, "is the most worthiest of all beastes; yea, he standeth as the King; fortitude and magnanimitie is denoted in the lyon."

The **Livery Colours** of this family are gold and red. As gold is the finest and purest of the metals, he who bears gold upon his shield is required to endeavour to surpass all others in prowess, and virtue. Red is the marshal colour and implies the willingness of its bearer to shed his blood, if necessary, in defense of his faith and his country.

Leonard Wilson

Written in the Bureau of Genealogy & Heraldry At the Palace Hotel,
San Francisco On the Feast of St. Agnes. MCMXLIV

Regarding The Co-Author

Harry Townley Brant
608 Wilford Street
Mayfield, Kentucky

Jacob Brant the First, son of Capt. or Chief Joseph Brant, and his wife May or Moriah Lancaster had five children. Jacob was born at Canajoharie, New York, in 1770. After the American Revolution he and his brother, Joseph Brant Jr., were sent to Dartmouth College at Hanover, New Hampshire. It was here at the age of twenty, in 1790, that he married. Several sons and daughters were born to this marriage. The first son was named John. A second son, Joseph, was born in 1791. The next son, Oliver, born January 1, 1792, was the grandfather of Harry Townley Brant, Co-Author of this book. After several daughters, Jacob was born in 1800 and went to Southern Indiana to become the first Brant of Southern Indiana. He was known as Jacob Brant the Second, and on his tombstone in the Old Bakers Creek Cemetery as Jacob Brant Sr. and "Wife Ann". The line of descent of the Co-Authors divides here. Harry T. Brant comes down through the Oliver Brant line and Inez Brant Leonard through the Jacob Brant line.,

Oliver Brant, the Grandfather of Harry Brant, left New Hampshire where he was born and went to Tarlton, Ohio, about 1800. He went with his mother and a sister, Sarah Brant, born in 1798 on January 23 in New Hampshire. His mother died in Oliver's home at the age of one-hundred and ten.

Harry Townley Brant, son of Clark Brant and Susan Josephine Hurley (Joe), was born September 18, 1881, in Danville, Illinois. He attended country schools which included the "Little Red Brick" and graduated from Danville High School. He married Nellie Fulton on May 18, 1902, at Covington, Indiana. A son and two daughters, Gladys and Aileen are married and living. On February 28, 1937, Harry Brant married Berla Lositer Hancock in Paris, Tennessee. He is a sheetmetal worker, and is now employed as a Supervisor with the Atomic Energy Commission at a plant in Paducah, Kentucky.

A much more detailed and interesting account of the family history of Oliver Brant has been written by Harry Brant, the Grandson, and will be published before long.

Foreword

This book was written in memory of two men who long ago were the fore-bears of the Brant-Overlin line: The Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant or Thayendaneagea, (Bundle of sticks or strength) and John Overlin the First, the British Redcoat, who later with his small son, William, fought for the cause of the Colonies.

Every effort has been put forth to be authentic. If a question asked by a member of a future generation is unanswered, the answer was very likely unknown.

The stories of the men and women in this book have been compiled in more detail than usual because the authors felt that the Interlude between Birth and Death, called Living, was of such Great Importance.

The Authors wish to express their great appreciation to all who aided them in the collection of their data. Many have had a hand in the writing of this book on the Brant-Overlin Family Tree.

Inez Brant-Leonard

Compton, California

Harry Townley Brant

Mayfield, Kentucky

THEORY

The first part of the theory is the definition of the function $f(x)$ and the function $F(x)$. The function $f(x)$ is defined as the function which is continuous at x and has the property that $f(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow x} f(t)$. The function $F(x)$ is defined as the function which is continuous at x and has the property that $F(x) = \lim_{t \rightarrow x} F(t)$.

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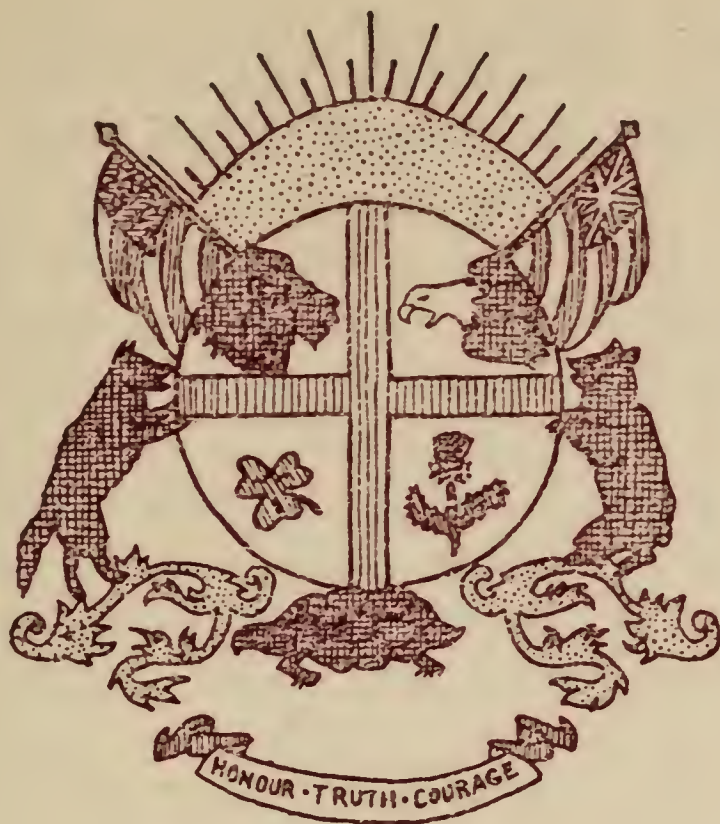
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THEORY

THEORY

THEORY

THEORY



Yonondic

A copy of the Arms of the Brant Family is included in this record, the original of which, drawn on the underside of a lambskin apron, probably Masonic, was found in an old trunk left by Oliver Brant in Georgetown, Illinois, where he died September 21, 1865.

"We lay no claims to Royal blood, except as handed through the royal house of the Mohawks. We bear no empty titles, gained through political pull or through Court intrigue, but claim a right to an emblem, emblazoned with signs and insignia proclaiming the origin of our family."

Seal bearing the cross, Lion of England, German Eagle, Irish Shamrock, and Scotch Thistle. The Seal supported on the back of the Tortoise, in respect to the ancient belief of the Mohawks that the world is so upheld. Butressed by the Wolf and Bear and supported by the Tortoise, totems, of the three clans of the Mohawks. Draped by the flags under which our forefathers have fought, with the rising sun, symbolic of hope of the future, and faith in the blood which our forebears have given us. "Yonondic", is the Mohawk word for "The Hill", from which our family name is derived.

The Brant-Overlin Saga

THE FIRST BRANT IN AMERICA

In the summer of 1689, an observer could have seen, slowly sailing up the broad Hudson River, a small sloop or sailing vessel containing a crew of three or four men. These adventurers had left the Dutch settlement of Manhattan, now New York City, at the Mouth of the river and were bound for the settlements further up the river, where they would boldly venture out into the Woestina, or wilderness, in what is the State of New York, there to trade with the Indians.

The Dutch had settled on Manhattan Island and along the Hudson River in 1613. On July 1, 1661, they entered into a treaty with the Indians at Fort Orange, now Albany. Lands were duly purchased at a price agreeable with the Indians. The next year, 1662, Arendt Van Culer had led the Dutch settlers into the Mohawk Valley.

It is to these settlements and Indian villages on the Mohawk, that the boat load of traders were bound. Their small craft is loaded with articles which they intend to barter for furs. The Dutch traders were always welcome at the Indian villages for they were honest and fair in their dealings.

We are concerned only in the fortunes of one of the occupants of this sloop. This individual, a big strapping young Scotchman, was a stranger to this life of a trader. It was his first adventure in the land of his adoption. He was a member of the first Brent family in America. His father had been driven from Scotland by the intrigues and cruelties of the persecution by Earl of Stairs and the Earl of Breadalbai. Escaping from their native land, the family had taken refuge among the Dutch of Manhattan, about 1675.

The family undoubtedly consisted of several members, as they left numerous descendents in New England and several other states, who use the old family name of Brent.

At some time during or after the trip of our hero on this trading journey up the river he became known as Brant and since that time our branch of the family has thus been known. The Brents formerly came from the North (Scandinavia). Along with the marauding Norsemen, they settled in France. One of the descendants accompanied the army of William the Conqueror in his invasion of England. Later a member of the family, John Brent, participated in the conquest of Scotland and the capture of Stirling Castle.

In Scott's "Lady of the Lake," we find the following lines:

Canto VI

"At length up-started John of Brent,
A yoeman from the banks of Trent;

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A stranger to respect of fear,
In peace a chaser of the deer,
In host a hardy mutineer,
When deed of danger to do."
'Hear ye his boast? cried John of Brent,
Ever to strife and jangling bent."

* * * * *

"Even hardy Brent, abashed and tanned,
stood half admiring, half ashamed."

* * * * *

"Answered DeBrent, most forward still
In every feat or good or ill;-'I shame
me in the part I played;"
"Ye all know John de Brent.
Enough."

* * * * *

"Little we reck," said John of Brent,
We Southern men of long descent."

The Brents are recorded in the register of the Freeman of York, England, for the year 1272.

The word Brent means "The brow of a hill." The sloop which carries young Brent, or Brant, makes slow progress against the current of the river, even by the help of both sweeps and sail.

The vessel is loaded with a full cargo of goods for barter, consisting of Duffle (a thick woolen cloth,) strouds, (a light thin cloth) and many boxes and bales containing beads, rings and other jewelry. Also knives, axes and pieces of iron from which the Indians were now forging better arrows and other weapons and tools to replace their old flint and stone implements.

Patiently "tacking" back and forth across the river, occasionally changing places at the long oars (sweeps) taking advantage of every minute of daylight and stopping for the night along the densely wooded shores or on one of the many islands, they slowly make their way. They cross past the Palisades, the Highlands, Catskills, and the Flats to Albany.

Albany was a palisaded city of logs at this time. The stockade had been as a protection against the Indian 44 years before this time. The city had been incorporated three years. Here the sloop was left behind and after procuring Indian carriers they set out overland, for a journey of eighteen miles through the forest to Schenectady on the Mohawk River.

The word Schenectady is derived from the Mohawk word, "Skohn-ektata," which means "Beyond the pines."

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Here they enter a different country. While Albany is located on poor and unfertile soil, Schenectady is surrounded by rich river flats of the Mohawk valley. The village at this time was very small. Only a few years before it had been settled by the Dutch. It was built on the site of the old Mohawk Indian Village of Oron-gugh-harie. At the time of which I am writing, 1689, the village consisted of sixty-three houses and a church. Shortly after this, about six months after our traders had left, the town was surprised in the night by a party of French and Indians from Canada. The buildings were entirely destroyed by fire and most of the inhabitants were killed or taken captive. A few escaped to Albany.

At Schenectady our party loads their goods in canoes and boldly takes for the Mohawk Indian country by way of the Mohawk River. Stopping first at Ti-onen-de-ro-ga, the Lower Capital of the Mohawks then at the village of Caugh-na-waga, they spent a few days trading for furs and other commodities. They then continue up the river to Canajoharie, often called by the English, Indian Castle.

The main castles or capitals of the Mohawks were the Lower Castle at Ticonderoga, Indian Castle at Canajoharie, and the upper Castle at a point further up the river where Danube is now located.

The word Canajoharie means in the Mohawk language "the pot that washes itself" from a whirl pool at the foot of one of the falls. It is here that we take leave of the traders, for one of their party, young Brant, decided to cast his lot with the Indians and remain at the village.

Whether young Brant fell in love at first sight with the Indian Princess of the village or whether he became involved in a dispute with the other traders is not known, but he remained at Canajoharie and took as his wife the daughter of a War Chief and became a member of the tribe.

Brant was received into the good graces of the tribe and made a member thereof by the following ceremony:

On the day of his initiation, a number of braves gathered around him. They first had him sit on the ground while one of them proceeded to pluck hairs from his head, occasionally dipping fingers in some ashes on a piece of bark. The Indians plucked all of the hair except a spot about four inches square. This hair they cut off close with the exception of three locks. Two of these locks they bound with a beaded band. The third they plaited into a braid of full length. They stuck the braid full of brooches and ornaments. They then pierced his ears and attached ear rings, stripping his clothes, he was clad in a simple breech-clout. They then painted his face and body in various colors, put a wampum necklace around

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his neck and a bracelet on his right arm. Then the old Chief led him out into the street and the inhabitants of the village came running from their houses and encircled around him. The Chief made a long speech. He was then turned over to three maidens who led him down to the river and into the water up to his waist. They caused him to dive or duck under the water three times while they rubbed his body quite severely. Then they led him to the Council House where he was clothed with a shirt and fancy leggings and decorated with porcupine quills and red hair. Moccasins were placed on his feet and a bunch of red feathers were fastened in his hair. His face was again painted with gaudy colors and they placed a bear skin for him to sit upon and he was given a tomahawk and bow and arrows, a pipe and pouch filled with native grown tobacco mixed with dry sumach leaves, and punk, steel and flint. The braves then came in and for a time they sat and smoked in silence. Then the old Chief again arose and made another long speech in the Mohawk language, in which he informed the young Scotchman that he was one of the tribe and entitled to the friendship and protection of the people and he in turn should love them and defend them and the village.

The women of the village, like all Indian squaws, were good cooks. They had prepared several wild turkeys in true Indian style. The birds had at first been drawn and washed clean, but with the feathers remaining. They were well salted inside with salt from the deer lick, well seasoned with wild spice berries, filled with wild sage and stuffed with cornmeal cakes. The fowls were then encased with a wrapping of clay and roasted in the fire. After being well cooked for about three hours the clay ball was broken from the meat and removed from the birds along with the feathers. The meat, juicy with all the natural flavors, was fit for the table of a King. They had fresh milky roasted ears of corn, cooked by dropping hot stones in a jar filled with water and containing the corn. There was dried fish, corn cakes with wild plums and grapes; for dessert, wild berries, walnuts, hickory and hazel nuts, hoarded since the last autumn. They also had dried apples, paw paws, squash, pumpkins and wild honey. For drink there was sassafras and sage tea. The partaking of this superb feast ended the ceremony of Brant's adoption into the Tribe of Mohawks of the Six Nations.



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THE MOHAWK VALLEY

Canajoharie
Nickus Brant

The old Mohawk Legend concerning the origin of the Tribe at Canajoharie follows:

There is far above the village, a point of interest, where the river runs for a distance between sheer perpendicular walls of granite to the brink of a cataract, which is known as Little Falls. On the northern shore there are many abrasions caused by the violent action of the water. One of these is a large circular cavity or cave with an opening about ten feet wide facing the river. Over this entrance is a massive lintel which appears as if hewn and placed there by the hands of men.

Long years ago, when the river was broader and the falls higher, there arose a feud between two young Chiefs of two of the clans of the Mohawk Tribe, the Wolf and The Tortoise. The three clans of the Mohawks are known as the Bear, the Wolf and the Tortoise or Turtle. A maiden of the Bear Clan was loved by both of the young Chiefs and each of them believed that he was loved by her in return. Her father was a stern old man and loved his daughter tenderly.

Her affections were at length stirred by the Wolf and she promised to marry him. The Tortoise heard of the engagement and he became torn with jealousy. He resolved to gain possession of the maiden before the Wolf could claim her.

He expressed warmest friendship for her and her affianced and seemed to be reconciled to his loss. She accompanied him on evening walks and canoe rides, unconsciously of danger. She went with the Tortoise to a secluded spot on the bank of the river. He proposed a canoe ride out to the island in the middle of the river. It was a bright moonlit night and she accepted.

His canoe was light and they slowly floated out on the bosom of the river. But instead of landing on the island, he allowed the craft to be caught in the "teoga" or rapid current and swiftly it headed for the falls. Like an arrow they sped rapidly down the stream and it seemed that now no power could save them from the falls, but the young warrior skillfully guided the canoe to the shore and made it fast to the mouth of the cavern.

Forcing the maiden from the craft, he dragged her into the cave. The cave was dry and well stocked with provisions. He kept her,

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an unwilling captive, many months until her affianced had given her up as lost. High up in the top of the cavern was an opening but it was too high to be reached by the captive. The cave was only known to the Tortoise, so escape was impossible.

At length, while hunting on the opposite shore, the Wolf noticed the canoe at the mouth of the cave. Waiting until midnight, he too, skillfully guided his canoe across the river. Entering the cave, he saw his sweetheart, an unwilling bride, sleeping in the arms of the Tortoise.

The Wolf smote the Tortoise but the wound was slight. The Tortoise sprang to the opening in the roof, bounded through and closed it with a large stone. The Wolf knew that in a short time the Tortoise would return with help, take the maiden and put him to death. They could not stem the current and return the way he had come neither could they remove the stone and escape through the hole in the roof. He must either choose death at the hands of his rival or the falls. They both chose to go over the falls.

Locked in each others arms, they entered the canoe and headed for the brink. The vessel struck propitiously on the boiling waters. Miraculously, they went safely over the falls and far down the river lived and loved for two generations. Their children and their children's children became the powerful clan of the Wolf.

The aboriginal name of the Mohawks was Agnierrhonons, later contracted to Agniers, translated the word means "The people of the Flint." They were originally settled on the banks of the St. Lawrence River at Hochelaga, now Montreal. An account of them was first given by Cartier, when he made his voyage up the river in 1535.

The word Mohawk is not Indian at all, as in their native language there is no sound as of the letters p-b-m. The Mohawks in speaking their native tongue do not permit their lips to touch. The title Mohawk was given them by the English. They were known as Mohaqua by the Algonquins, and Maquas by the Dutch.

They were driven out of Canada by their enemies, the Algonquins or Adirondacks, probably about the year 1600 and settled in the Mohawk Valley. Here they became part of the Six Nations, the greatest confederation of Indians on the North American Continent. This confederation was originally composed of five nations, the Mohawks, Oneidas, Senecas, Cayugas and Onondagas.

In 1715, the five kings of this nation visited England and were received by Royalty. Later the five Nations were joined by the Tuscaroras. They were then known as the Six Nations by the

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SÄGA

English, but called themselves the Konoskioni or the "Cabin Builders". At this time their total number was established at 11,650 including 2,150 warriors.

At the time of Brant's adoption into the tribe they were known as the Five Nations. In many respects they were far advanced over their civilized white neighbors. At their council meetings their braves and squaws were always present and had equal voice in the deliberations. They were many years in advance of other nations in the adoption of women's suffrage. I have always contended that if the Indians had not been molested by the white man for another hundred years or more, they would have developed a civilization equal to, if not superior to that of other nations. Other friends and students of the Indians have come to this same conclusion. Mr. Comincavish, who has opened graves of more than forty Miama Indians and who is recognized as the best authority on Indians in Allen County, Indiana, made this same statement in a conversation I had with him a few years ago.

The Mohawk villages were clean and well arranged. The houses stood in rows with streets between. They were well made and covered with bark, were about 180 to 300 feet long and 22 to 23 feet high. They were divided into several apartments or lodges accommodating several families.

The villages were stored with grain, corn or maize, stored in pits dug in the ground. It was not uncommon for one family to have 300 to 400 bushels of grain stored for the winter.

In their domestic affairs the women did the work and the lodge was the squaw's precinct and she had the supervision of all its arrangements. She assigned to each person his or her place to sleep and place for their possessions. These places were permanent and were never changed unless by the squaw herself. The husband had no voice in the matter. The lodge was her domain, the forest his.

The villages were surrounded by palisades, constructed from hewn logs, driven into the ground to form an impregnable wall around the people. The tribe was ruled by a king or chief, elected by the people and assisted by several war chiefs or sachems who won their laurels by prowess in battle. The Six Nations were ruled at this time by king Hendrick.

Their food consisted of bread made from flour of corn or maize and baked with beans. Pumpkins cooked and baked, called anasira, parched corn and in season, green ears of corn roasted or boiled on the cob were other foods. For meat they had wild turkey, duck or goose, deer, bear and speckled trout caught fresh

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from the stream. Can you imagine a more toothsome morsel than tender venison steak toasted over an open wood fire? Sugar was made from maple sap and tart sumach and berries were used.

The furnishings of the houses were very simple. A few woven baskets and crude pottery consisted equipment for their culinary department. They slept on bear and other skins, leaving the house uncrowded with useless chairs, bedsteads, tables, etc.

The labors were equally divided between husband and wife. It was the husband's business to provide the meat, the wife's to prepare it. The wife was the overseer of the house and kept it clean for the husband and his guests; the husband protected the same from marauding enemies. In the home there was no quarreling; when the squaw's temper was ruffled the husband walked away. Instead of the tyrant, as the Indian is sometimes pictured, he was more like a guest in his own house, than the Lord and Master. The belief that the wife was a mere slave and burden bearer is utterly false, especially among the Mohawks. It is true that the women supervised and worked in the cornfields while the husband was hunting or fighting but she was assisted by the old men and boys.

All Indian tribes, as well as other peoples, had a belief in some legend concerning the creation of the world. They also had a story of a great flood that covered the whole world. These tales were conceived through the fact that all early people established their homes along rivers and streams generally in low lands which were periodically flooded. The people seldom traveled very far from home and when they did they camped on the banks of rivers or streams. They had no means of communication except by word of mouth, so when the floods did come they naturally supposed the whole world was covered by water. These tales were told to their children and their children's children, until the legends developed into the belief the whole earth was covered, in some past age, with water of enormous depth.



THE MOHAWK'S STORY OF CREATION

In the beginning all of the people lived in the sky. There was a tree growing in front of the wigwam of a great chief. He was dissatisfied with his squaw and wished to rid himself of her presence. He said that he would not be satisfied until the tree was removed from in front of his wigwam, so he caused his braves to pull the tree up. A great hole was left where the tree had been.

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He told his squaw to spread something beside the hole for him to sit upon. She did this by placing a blanket at the side of the hole but he reclined upon it and gazed into the hole. He could see nothing but a great expanse of water below. He told his squaw sit beside him and let her legs hang into the hole. She did this and he suddenly seized her by the nape of the neck and threw her into the hole. She fell down and down. There were all sorts of birds and swimming animals on the water below. The loon looked into the water and saw the reflection of the woman descending from above. The loon called to the other birds and animals; he said, "Look see the wonderful creature coming up from the bottom of the water."

They told him to look up, as it was falling from above. They then made preparations to receive her. A turtle swam to the spot immediately under her and she landed on his back. The loon then caused the swimming animals to dive into the water. The muskrat dove down but on his tail was a small bit of mud. They placed this mud on the turtle's back to form land. Then one after the other all the beavers went down and returned drowned, but each had a small amount of mud which was placed on the turtle's back. The turtle became the earth and thereafter the Mohawk's belief was the earth was supported on the back of a turtle.

The woman went to sleep, and when she awoke willows were growing around the edge of the turtle's back. A slain deer lay among the willows. The woman ate the meat of the deer, then again fell into a deep slumber. When she awoke the second time, the earth was covered with trees and flowers. She later gave birth to sons. One of these was a good son, but the other a bad one, or man of flint. Like Cain and Abel, the two sons fought, but it was the bad one who was slain. She had other children and it was by these that the earth was peopled.

The primitive habits and mode of living of the Mohawks were but slightly different from the wild life which young Brant had left behind in far off Scotland. It is not surprising that he so easily threw off his ties to the so-called civilization of those times and remained with the Indians. We can imagine young Brant strolling along the narrow street of Canajoharie, out through the gate down to the banks of the beautiful Mohawk River.

He has been a member of the tribe for some time now. He has been on the war path against their enemies, the Hurons and the Algonquins and proven himself a brave and fearless fighter. He has led his adopted brothers in the chase and through exposure

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and life in the wilds, and has become tanned and hardy and could easily pass for one of the full blooded redskins.

Dressed in the picturesque garb of the savage, his well knit form is clad in a well worn pair of buck-skin trousers, fringed and discolored which are belted by a wide strip of buck-skin. A deer-skin strap extending from the waist diagonally across his chest and back and over the right shoulder to his belt secures his trousers. The balance of the upper part of his body is left bare. On his feet and reaching half way to his knees are a pair of buck-skin moccasins laced with deer-skin strings. His head is bare except for a lock of black hair falling to his shoulders and decorated with turkey feathers.

As he reaches the bank of the river he meets the maiden who is his choice of all of the girls of the village. She is the daughter of the chief of the tribe. Her beautiful form, clothed in a simple buck-skin suit, is revealed in all her beauty of outline. Her long black hair is bound with a band with silver across her forehead and naked arms and shoulders are only partly concealed by her tresses.

She returns his admiring gaze with a smile that reveals her pearly teeth and quickly drawing her blanket around her, she waits for him to join her. When together, they stroll down the stream to a shady nook where they sit on a mossy bank and dreamily gaze on the rippling water or watch the busy birds in the boughs over head.

Although Brant has met numerous maidens since he has joined the tribe, she is the only one whom he is ready to take as his bride; so it is not many days before he gains her consent and takes her to his lodge according to the simple rites of the tribe. Thus is the mixed blood of the Norse, Scotch, English and French fused with the blood of the true American, the Mohawk tribe of the Six Nations.

Young Brant became a war chief or sachem of the tribe. He is mentioned as appearing in a conference held at Albany in August of 1700, along with king Hendrick, as "Brant, the Mohawk Indian." Again, also in connection with King Hendrick, in a deed on July 10, 1714, conveying land that was formerly the site of the Indian village of Caughnawaga.

To this union of Brant and the Indian princess were born several children. We have a record of only one. This child a boy, was probably was the first born. His Indian name was Ta-ho-waugh-wen-ga-ragh-kwin. His Scotch name, Nickus Brant, given by his father in honour of his (Brant's) father or grandfather.

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Nickus Brant was born about the year 1700. He became a chief at the Upper Castle of the Mohawks and married an Indian wife. He spent his life at the Upper Castle, one of the Capitols of the Mohawks, and is described as a man of most prodigious silence and courtesy.

Two children were born to Nickus Brant and his wife. Molly, or Deyonwadonti, was born the older. Her brother, Joseph or Thayendanagea, was born somewhere on the Ohio River while the tribe was on a hunting expedition in the year 1742. His Indian name means bundle of sticks tied together, or strength.

I have been governed thus far in our family history by the story as told to me by my father and as he had recieved it from his father, corroborated by certain facts as recorded in history.

I wish to take a little space at this point to deny some statements made by two historians as to the ancestors of Joseph Brant. I believe it was in one of the old McGuffie histories that I found the statement, "Joseph was a half breed Indian." Lossing, in his "Field Book of The Revolution" states that, "Joseph Brant was a full blooded Mohawk Indian, the youngest of three sons" He also says, "after Joseph's father died, his widow married an Indian who was called by the whites, "Barnet" which was afterwards corrupted to "Barnt and later to Brant."

This would be a plausible explanation as to the manner in which Joseph recieved his name, if it were not for the statements made above. "Brant, the Mohawk Indian" is mentioned as early as 1700, so Joseph could not have received his name (subsequent to 1742) as stated above.

Nickus Brant died about the time of Joseph's birth or shortly afterwards. He was buried in the "Towesentha" or Indian burial ground at the Upper Castle. His widow then married an Indian brave of Canajoharie. This village then again became the home of the Brants.



WILLIAM JOHNSON
Mollie Brant
(Thayendanerre)

We must now consider for awhile another character who, if he had lived longer, would undoubtedly have been blessed along with George Washington as one of the founders of our nation. This

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man was Sir Wm. Johnson, a native of Ireland and one of the pioneer settlers of the Mohawk Valley and the State of New York.

Wm. Johnson was born in Warrentown County of Downs, Ireland, in 1715. When he was the age of twenty years he fell in love with a young lady of Ireland, but his parents objected to their marriage. His uncle, Sir Peter Warren of New York, an officer in the Royal Navy, had come into possession of a large tract of land in the Mohawk Valley and having heard of William's disappointment in love, he proposed that William should come to America and take charge of this estate. William gladly took advantage of this offer and in 1738, became his uncle's manager. He settled at what was known as Warren's Bush or Warrensburg and later known as Johnson's Settlement.

The estate consisted of about 14,000 acres of land, and he erected a dwelling and store and entered into the life of a trader with the Indians, Dutch, and English settlers of the valley. Johnson at once became friends with the Indians through his fair and impartial dealings.

One of Johnson's neighbors was a settler named Phillips. On one of his visits to Manhattan or New York to buy supplies, Phillips met a young German girl named Catherine Weisenberg. This girl prevailed upon Phillips to buy her for service in his household, by paying the captain of the sailing ship for her passage as an immigrant, as was customary in those days. Phillips did this and took her to his home. She attracted the attention of William Johnson and he reimbursed Phillips with the amount of 16 pounds, the total of her passage, and he took her to his home as his housekeeper. They were later married and she became the mother of a son, John and daughters Nancy and Mary.

Johnson became a prominent citizen of the community, accumulated considerable wealth and was made Superintendent of the Indians, and in 1746, was vested with the rank of Chief of the Mohawks.

Johnson first settled on the south side of the river, a few miles north of Ticonderoga. This place was known as Johnson's Settlement. In 1742 he built Fort Johnson on the north side of the river near the Indian village of Caughnawaga. He lived here until 1763, when he built Johnson Hall and laid out the town of Johnstown a little further north. He resided here until his death in 1774.

Johnson Hall became the rendezvous of the Indians of the valley. Large numbers of them visited him here, held councils, and it is

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said that they over ran the premises and were always welcome. Johnson Hall is still standing. On the balustrade of the stairs leading to the second floor where the council room was located, are still to be seen many scars made by the tomahawk of Joseph Brant (Thayendanagea) as he returned from the council meeting in a fit of anger where a decision made by Johnson did not meet with his approval. Johnson Hall must not be confused with Fort Johnson

Mollie Brant became housekeeper for Johnson about 1751, shortly after her mother with Joseph, had moved to Canajoharie from the Upper Castle. Johnson first met the Indian Maiden at a militia muster at or near Fort Johnson. Jestingly, Molly, then a pretty girl of sixteen, asked an officer to let her ride behind him on his horse. He consented and like a wild cat she sprang up behind him and away they went across the field, her skirts flapping and her hair flying in the wind.

Johnson became interested in the girl and decided to make her his paramour. From this time Molly became his constant companion. Catherine Weisenburg died about this time and Molly became Johnson's wife according to the Indian custom. They were never married by the English ceremony. Molly presided over the Johnson household and became the mother of a large family of children.



LIFE OF CAPTAIN JOSEPH BRANT

His School Days

French, Indian and Revolutionary Wars Brantford, Ontario

Joseph, or Thayendanagea, Molly's brother, was a great favorite of Wm. Johnson. Johnson sent twenty Indian boys to be educated at Moor's Indian School at Lebanon, Connecticut. Joseph Brant was one of this class. The school was taught by Dr. Eleazar Wheelock.

It is possible that Brant had received some education before he was sent to school, but the education that even a white boy could receive at that time was very meager, as it was said that the school master in Cherry Vally used to do his farm work while his

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scholars followed him about reciting their lessons. He received a fair education at the school, for after his return, he became secretary and interpreter to a young minister who was traveling about as a missionary to the Indians of the valley. Later in life, Brant wrote several memoirs and translated the Gospel of Mark into the Mohawk Language.

The Indian boys were restless, however, and would rather have been on the chase than in the school room. Only two of these boys remained to graduate. Brant's behavior must have been good, however, for Dr. Wheelock, in letters to Johnson, wrote that "Joseph and the other boys behave very well, are well and studious and Joseph is an excellent scholar."

Joseph was already a warrior before he entered the school. War had been declared between England and France, and Brant's first battle was when King Hendrick, the Mohawk Chief, with about 250 braves, led an expedition against Crown Point in 1755. Brant was among those warriors although he was but thirteen years of age. This army was a part of the provincial Army and was under the command of Johnson. The battle of Crown Point is a matter of history and I will not take up space to recount the details.

King Hendrick, the gray haired chief, was killed in this battle as he rode his horse at the head of his brave warriors. Brant hid behind a tree at the first volley and was so frightened that he could hardly hold his gun, but he soon overcame this feeling and soon he entered into the thick of the battle.

His second experience in war was at the battle of Niagara, in 1759, when he was seventeen years old. During this war, Wm. Johnson was made a baronet and there after known by his title of Sir William Johnson.

After Brant returned from school, the Pontiac war broke out and he indeed became a great warrior and gained many scalps. He was a tall handsome young man, slightly lighter in complexion than the other Indians, evidence of his white ancestry. He could sing the war songs, dance the war dances, then out to battle his foes and returned with many scalps, for which the warriors were richly rewarded at Johnson Hall. The equivalent of fifty dollars apiece was paid at one time for the scalps of two Delaware War Chiefs.

During the Pontiac War Brant was made a War Chief or Sachem of his tribe.

After the war was over, Brant married a daughter of an Oneida Chief. This was in 1765. Brant married the Princess according to

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the Indian custom.

His mother went to the home of the bride and made all the arrangements satisfactory with the bride's mother. Then, the next day the bride went with her mother to the home of the Brants'. Here she presented his mother with a cake of corn bread to show that she was a good cook and capable of taking care of his domestic affairs. His mother then made the bride a present of some venison or other game to show that the groom was capable of providing his house with food and the ceremony was over.

Two children were born to this union, a son Isaac and a daughter Christina. About 1787, Christina married a man named Hill. In 1771, after a long illness, Joseph's wife, while still a young woman, died of consumption. He then wished to marry his wife's sister and applied to Rev. Dr. Stewart, minister of the Episcopalian Church, to perform the ceremony. As this was against the laws of the church, he was compelled to apply to the minister of the Lutheran Church to marry them.

Several years later, Brant's second wife, who was childless, died. He then married, by the Indian custom, a half breed woman, Catherine, daughter of Col. Croghan an Irishman and an Indian woman. Years later, at a wedding in Niagara of a Miss Moore, a native captive of Cherry Valley who had been courted and won by an English Officer, Brant expressed a desire to be married to this third wife by the English custom. His request was granted and they were married according to the Episcopalian ceremony.

At this marriage Brant caused much amusement among the English guests, Brant wore leggings and breech cloth of a very fine blue cloth, moccasins beautifully ornamented with beads, a short green coat, silver epaulets and a small round hat trimmed with lace. Over all was a broadcloth blanket with a gorgeous red border. He took pains to drop the blanket from the shoulders that the epaulets might be seen. The bride was dressed in a rich costume of broad cloth, richly ornamented with bead work.

Seven children were born to Joseph and his third wife. Three sons, John, Joseph and Jacob, and four daughters, Margaret, Catherine, Mary and Elizabeth, made up the family. Margaret married Dr. Robert Kerr, of Niagara. One of the other daughters married a Frenchman who was killed by Indians while traveling along the Wabash River in 1789.

In 1774, Wm. Johnson died. The Indians lost their greatest friend and it is almost certain that if Sir William had lived a few years longer, the history of the Mohawk Valley would have been entirely

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differient. He undoubtedly would have espoused the cause of the colonies in the Revolutionary War and he would have ranked with Washington, as one of the patriots of the young government of the United States. As it was, his son, Sir John, and his son-in-law, Col. Guy Johnson, in company with Butler, a notorious Irish neighbor, influenced the Mohawks to support the cause of England. Brant can scarcely be blamed for the part he played in the struggle. The English, represented by the Johnson Family, were the only white friends he knew.

Long after the war, he said, "When I joined the English in the beginning of the war, it was purely on account of my forefathers' engagements or covenants between the King and the Indian Nations as a sacred thing; therefore, I was not to be frightened by the threats of rebels at the time."

The Americans, before they were sure whether Brant would enter the struggle on the side of the English, prevailed on Dr. Wheelock, Brant's old school master, to write him and urge him to take up the tomahawk on the side of the colonists. Brant replied to this letter as follows:

"I very well remember the happy hours I spent under your roof and especially do I remember the prayers, wherein you prayed that, we might be able to live as good subjects, to fear God and honor the King."

That he might be impressed by the power of the mother country, Brant was invited to visit England. He went there in the fall of 1775. He was feted and feasted and much lionized while he was in London. His portrait was painted by the celebrated Romney and is still on exhibition in the Art Museum in London.

He generally wore European clothes, but he had with him a splendid costume made in the Indian style. He appeared in this at court and other social functions. His portrait was painted in this costume.

While wearing his Indian attire, he had on his head a gorgeous plumage consisting of large red and small red and white feathers fastened to a rather broad head band and a white shirt with cross belts from the shoulders, a wide amulet on the right arm, a green cape from the left shoulder. In his right hand he carried a handsome, glittering tomahawk with "J. Thayendanagea" engraved on it. Suspended from his neck was a beautiful necklace, consisting of semi-circular shells, with a cross pendant.

During his stay in London, he purchased a gold ring and had his full name engraved upon it, "Joseph Brant Thayendanagea," so his body would be identified in case of death in the coming war.

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While in London almost a year, he was made a Mason by Lodge 71 of London, May 29, 1776. He had the greatest respect for his oath in this order. This was proven on one occasion during the war. During one of the battles, Capt. McKinstry, of the American Army, was captured. The Indians had tied the captain to the stake, where they intended to burn him as was their custom. As the flames were about to leap up about him, he gave the mystic sign of distress of the Masonic Order. True to his oath as a Mason, Brant rescued the prisoner and escorted him to Quebec. Here he turned him over to some English Masons of that place and he later delivered him safely to the American Army. I have known some white brother Masons who were not so true to the oath we have all taken and sworn to uphold.

Before Brant returned to America he promised to lead three thousand Indians into the field on the side of the English. He returned to America and was secretly landed at some quiet place near New York and made the dangerous journey back to Canada.

The Mohawks had been driven from their homes in the valley by the Colonists and Brant made his headquarters in Canada. From there he led many raids back into his own country. He led the Indians at the battles of Oriskany, Cherry Valley, Minisink, and the siege of Fort Stanwix.

Early historians claimed that he was concerned in the Wyoming Massacre. The poet, Campbell, wrote in regard to this affair the following lines in his "Gertrude of Wyoming."

This is no time, to fill the joyous cup,
The mammoth comes, the foe
The monster Brant,
With all his howling, desolating band.
Scorning to wield the hatchet
for his tribe,
Gainst Brant himself, I went to
Battle forth
Accursed Brant.

It has since been proven that Brant was not present at this massacre and Campbell sent an apology to Brant's son, John, but the poem lives on, an atrocious libel on an honorable soldier.

Brant met many victories but occasionally was compelled to raise the Mohawk retreating cry of "Donah" and draw off his warriors with severe losses. (Note, "Donah" is from the Mohawk.) Women turned pale and children trembled at the sound of his name, but this was caused by the false reports regarding his warfare. In

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after life he felt keenly the hatred shown him by the people of the frontier. He wished to be a gentleman and obtain the respect of everyone.

During the massacre at Cherry Valley, Brant entered a house where he found a woman going about her regular duties. He exclaimed "How is it that you are doing this kind of work while all about you your neighbors are being murdered?"

"We are King's people," she replied. "That will not save you, this day," he said. "There is one, Joseph Brant, who if he is among the Indians, will save us." "I am Joseph Brant, he answered. "I don't know that I can save you, but I will do what I can." He told her to get in bed. When a band of Senecas wished to enter the house, he told them that there was no one there but a sick women and her children and they departed. Later, his own Mohawks appeared and he commanded them to use their paint and put his mark upon her and she was not molested again.

Another incident is related which illustrates Brant's humane warfare. During one of the raids, the Indians captured a father and snatched his baby from the cradle in which it was sleeping. The bereaved mother escaped to the protection of the American Army. The next morning, while at breakfast, an Indian runner appeared before the American officers. He presented them with the baby and the following note from Brant:

"Sir: I send you by one of my runners this child, which he will deliver, that you may know that whatever others may do, I do not make war on women and children. I am sorry I have those engaged with me in the service, who are more savage than the savages themselves."

At last the long war was over. Peace was made and, as usual, the white man in his dealings with the Indians made no provision for the red man.

At the close of the hostilities, Brant with his Mohawks were camped on the American side of the river at Niagra. As no mention was made of the Indians in the treaty their pride was humbled, since they were a very sensitive people. Brant used his power and influence to gain a concession from the British government. He declared that his tribe was ready to sink or swim with the British. He asked Gen. Haldimand at Quebec for a piece of land on the St. Lawrence. The General agreed to obtain this land for the Mohawks but the Senecas, who were living on the Genesee Valley in New York State, objected to their allies and brothers of the Six Nations

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moving so far away. Brant then asked for some land in the rich Grand River Valley in Ontario. The Grand River is one hundred miles long and he asked for a strip six miles wide on each side, the full length of the river. This land was given them by the British Government.

The Mohawks moved there and their descendants still hold title to most of the valley. Here Brant ruled wisely and justly. He built a town which he named Brantford. This town has grown into a progressive city of over 30,000 in population.

It was shortly after this that he translated the Gospel of St. Mark into the Mohawk language. He also translated the Book of Common Prayer. It was his intention to write a history of the Six Nations, but this task was never accomplished.

Brant was an ardent and devoted Episcopalian and wished to build a church in Brantford. He had many friends in England and he decided to go there to raise funds for this purpose.

In 1785, he made his second visit to London. As was the case on his former visit, Brant was the social center in the most aristocratic and refined circles. He had many prominent friends among the nobility, his manners were so polished, his countenance so manly and intelligent, and he possessed so mild a disposition. He counted as his personal friend, Sir Guy Carleton, Earl Moira, Sir Charles Stuart and Lord Percy. The Prince of Wales afterwards George IV, was an almost constant companion of Brant during this visit.

While Brant was at a masquerade in London, an incident occurred which his descendants appreciate very much. He wore no masquerade but dressed in his gorgeous Indian costume, carried his tomahawk in his belt and painted his face in true warrior style. Brant, like most of his descendants of the present day, had a prominent Roman nose. There were also some Turks present at the ball and one of them, thinking it was false, reached for Brant's nose and gave it a tweak. Instantly, Brant snatched his tomahawk from his belt, flourished it over the head of the Turk and gave the terrible war whoop of the Mohawks. The Turk was much frightened and although Brant was only pretending, the ladies shrieked and fled from the room.

Brant raised sufficient funds while in London for his purpose and returned to Brantford where he built a church and also a school. This church is called "Saint Pauls, his Majesty's Chapel of the Mohawks". The church is still standing and is the oldest church in Ontario.

To get the proper understanding and background of Brant's

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religion and appreciate the facts that led up to his early Christian conversion, which later resulted in his building the church in Brantford, we must go away back to the days of 1613, almost eighty years before the first member of the Brant family made the trip up the Hudson to join the Indians.

The French settled in Canada and brought with them the Catholic religion. In 1613, Champlain gathered together an army of Hurons, Algonquins, and Montagnais Indians and made an expedition into the country of the Six Nations for the purpose of discovery. On this trip he decided the Indians needed the Catholic church. Returning from his next trip to France Champlain brought with him four priests to carry out his plans for converting the Indians. One of these priests was sent into the wilderness to begin his work as a steppingstone for the larger campaign ahead.

However, the Mohawks tomahawked Jesuit Father Jogues and other priests who were sent to them, ending forever the effort to

Then the English missionaries came into their country and offered Catholicise the Mohawks.

them a religion of love and forgiveness. The Indians adopted them and their teachings at once. Several churches were built in the valley and the Mohawks have since remained devout and faithful Christians.

Nickus Brant, Joseph's father, was a member of the little missionary church at Teonontogen, The Upper Castle, as was his wife, Joseph's mother. She influenced Joseph and his sister Mollie to associate with the Anglican Church at Canajoharie, where they resided after the death of Nickus.

In 1710, the Mohawk Episcopalian Church, Queens Anne's Chapel, at Ticonderoga, (Fort Hunter) was presented by Queen Anne of England with a Bible and Communion set. The communion set consisted of seven pieces. Each piece and the Bible bore the Royal Coat of Arms and this inscription: "The gift of her Majesty, Anne by the grace of God of Great Britian and Ireland and her plantations in North America. Queen to the Indian Chapel of the Mohawks, 1710".

Later Wm. Johnson came to the valley and built several churches, one at Johnstown. Joseph Brant was converted to the Christian religion at an early age and remained a devout Episcopalian during his entire life.

When the Revolutionary War broke out, the Mohawks of Saint Anne's Church placed the communion set in a barrel and buried it in a hill some distance from the church. At the close of the

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revolution some of them returned and retrieved the treasure and returned with it to Canada where it was jealously guarded until St. Paul's was built in 1795. The set was divided between this and one other Indian church in the county. St. Paul's received the Bible Chalice, one Communion, one offering plate and one goblet. They are treasured relics of the congregation to this day and are of inestimable value.

After the war, hatred against Brant was very bitter in the valley. Several survivors of victims in the valley threatened to kill him. However, he was held in highest esteem by his former enemies, the American officers, and met them quite often in gatherings in New York, where he was accorded the greatest praise for his soldierly conduct during the war. During his last days, Brant was troubled by controversies over the land along the Grand River. The Canadian Government hated to relinquish their claims to the fertile valley. The white men plotted against the Indians and endeavored to defraud them. At one time through a conspiracy of Red Jacket and the young men of the tribe, Brant was dethroned as Chief but was reinstated and remained their leader until his death.

He had one great trouble that haunted him to his grave. Isaac, his oldest son, by his first wife, was a wild young man. He associated with bad companions and became a veritable drunken sot. He married a very attractive Indian maiden and his father made him private secretary, hoping to reform him, but he continued in his drunken carousels.

He abused his step-mother and even threatened the life of his father. He assaulted a young man on the road and killed his horse. His father paid heavy damages to settle the affair. At another time he killed a man in cold blood.

One evening Brant had attended a council at Burlington Heights, and after tea he had gone to his room. Isaac had entered the next room and was cursing and abusing his father. Brant could hear him and went into the room where he was. As soon as he entered the room, Isaac attacked him with a knife. His father avoided the direct blow and the knife cut his hand. In self defense, Brant struck Isaac on the head with his dirk. It was not a dangerous wound, but Isaac in drunken stupor, would not allow it to be dressed and repeatedly tore off the bandages. Brain fever set in and the young man died. Brant worried about this and gave himself up to the authorities and resigned his commission in the British Army. This resignation was not accepted and he was absolved from all blame by the Indian authorities.

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A few years before his death, Brant built a large house at the head of Lake Ontario where he lived in contentment, except for the haunting memory of the part he played in his son Isaac's death. He had several Negro slaves whom he had captured during the war. These slaves were satisfied to live according to the customs of the Indians.

Brant received a commission as Colonel in the British Army, but he was always known as Captain Joseph Brant. He died at the home on Lake Ontario, on November 24, 1807, at the age of 64. He was buried in the burial grounds of St. Paul's Church at Brantford. In 1879, his grave was desecrated, but such a storm of reproach arose that his bones were returned and he still sleeps in his original tomb and within the shadow of the old church he loved so well.

His tomb is inscribed with the following:

"This tomb is erected to Thayendanagea, Captain Joseph Brant, principal Chief of the Six Nation Indians, by his fellow subjects, admirers of his fidelity and attachment to the British Crown."

In 1886, there was erected in Victoria Park in Brantford, a large and beautiful monument, bearing a colossal statue of the chief. This was one of the first monuments erected to the memory of an Indian on the American Continent.

Joseph's son, John, a fine specimen of young Indian manhood became Chief. He with his sister, Elizabeth, occupied the home of their father, but the mother preferred to live with the Indians on Grand River.

John distinguished himself in the war of 1812, on the side of the English. Jacob fought for the United States.

Pauline Johnson, a descendant of Molly Brant and Sir William Johnson, the only Indian poetess, was also born at Chiefswood, near Brantford.



CAPT. JOSEPH BRANT'S WILL

"In the name of God Amen. I, Joseph Brant, principal Chief of the Five Nations of Indians on the Grand River, in the province of upper Canada, resident in the vicinity of Flamborough East in the County of York and Home District of the said province, being in good health of body and of sound and disposing mind (praise be God for the same) and being desirous to settle my worldly affairs

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whilst I have strength and capacity so to do, do make and publish this my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me at any time and heretofore made and first and principally I commit my soul into the hands of my great Creator who gave it, and my body to the earth to be interred at the discretion of my executors herein after named, and as to worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to entrust me I dispose of as follows:

"It is my will that all my funeral expenses and just debts be paid out of the monies that may arise out of the sale of such part of my real estate hereinafter directed to be sold for that purpose.

"I give and bequeath to my beloved wife, Catherine, all my personal estate to and for her own use and benefit to be at her sole and entire disposal and in such manner as she may think proper. I do further give and bequeath to my said wife, Catherine, the farm with all the hereditaments there-unto belonging where on I now live in Flamborough East containing as is supposed by measurement seven hundred acres to her sole and entire use during her life and after her decease to be divided to the Mohawk children of Dr.

Robert Kerr."

The certain parcel of land on both sides of the road leading from Ancaster to the Mohawk Village, which the chiefs of the Five Nations of the Indians had granted to him in consideration of services rendered to them, was to be divided equally between all Brant's children already mentioned, together with his grandchildren by his son, Isaac, deceased, and their heirs.

Another clause provided for disposal of certain property for the purpose of paying any of his debts. Thus did the illustrious Capt. Joseph Brant, coming to the close of a remarkable life, make plans for the disposal of his worldly goods.

In the Brant Historical Society Museum among a number of valuable Historic documents is a hand-written copy of the last will and testament of Joseph Brant, dated October 18, 1805, two years before his death. It is painstakingly written in ink on heavy hand made paper, slightly yellowed by time but still completely legible. Four pages, measuring approximately 8 by 13 inches, are filled and a half sheet is attached to the last one. It is certified by James Fitzgibbon, of the Court of Probates, to be a true copy.

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

BRANT RELICS

"Visitors to the Brant Historical Society Museum, will see there a case devoted to relics associated with the Brant family, ranging from a brooch hammered out of a small silver coin and a Masonic emblem used in the Mohawk Village Lodge, in which Capt. Brant was Master, to a combination hatchet and pipe of peace. An oil painting of Brant, which occupies a prominent position in the museum, calls forth frequent comments in view of his left hand being painted to show five fingers. The museum is open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons from 3 to 5 o'clock.

"In view of his services in the Revolutionary War, Brant has personally been given a Crown grant of 3,450 acres at the head of Lake Ontario, designated Wellington Square and now known as Burlington. A few years before his death, he left the Mohawk Village at Brantford and moved to Burlington. There he built a large two story house. In that house he died on November 24, 1807."

The Expositor, Brantford



JACOB BRANT I His School Days

His Sons - John, Joseph Jr. and Oliver

Jacob Brant was the son of Joseph Brant, Thayendanagea, and his third wife, Catherine, daughter of an English Army Officer, Colonel Crogham, and his Indian wife.

Jacob was born at Canajoharie, near Johnstown, New York, about 1770. After the Revolutionary War and his people were settled on the Grand River in Ontario, Canada, Joseph Brant, the Indian Chief, began to think of the education of his sons. He still held in fond remembrance his own school days at the Moor Indian School in Lebanon, Connecticut, where he had been educated.

The school had been moved to Hanover, New Hampshire, and was now known as Dartmouth College, named in honor of Lord Dartmouth. Old Doctor Wheelock was dead and his son was now president of the college. Jacob Brant the First and his brother Joseph Brant Jr. were sent to Dartmouth College to acquire an education.

There has been some confusion as to which brother, John or Joseph Jr., went with Jacob to school but the Alumni Records of

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Dartmouth College show that it was Joseph Jr.

In one of his letters to president Wheelock, Joseph Brant said:

"I receive an inexpressible satisfaction in hearing from you, that you have taken my sons under your protection and also to find that you also retain a strong remembrance of our ancient friendship.

For my part, nothing can efface from my memory the persevering attention your revered father paid to my education when I was in the place my sons now are.

Though I was an unprofitable pupil in many respects, yet my worldly affairs have been much benefited by the instruction I received there."

For a period of several years accounts of the Family History are very meager.

John Brant lived and died in Brantford, Canada. He became Chief of the Six Nations after the death of his father, Joseph Brant, in 1807. Both John and his father lie buried in the same tomb in the shadow of the old Mohawk Church in Brantford, Canada.

Jacob Brant the first, remained in New Hampshire for several years, according to the record in the Old Brant Family Bible. This is substantiated by history it is recorded that Jacob served the United States as a soldier in the War of 1812. In 1810, when Jacob Brant the First was twenty years of age, he married either by legal or common law marriage an English wife. Her name was Mary or Mariah Lancaster. Several sons and daughters were born to this union. John was the first son, then Joseph in 1791, Oliver on January 1, 1792, and the last son born in 1800, given the name of Jacob in honor of his father. This son, after he was grown, went to Southern Indiana and became the first Jacob Brant of Indiana. He and his wife Anne lie buried in Old Baker's Creek Cemetery near Eureka, Luce Township.

This Jacob the Second is the son who has been said to have gone "West". He went to Indiana, which in those days was "West". He was lost to the family for many years, possibly because he died at the age of thirty-three and his "Wife Ann" outlived him only four years. All this was of record on their tombstones in the Old Baker's Creek Cemetery. Strange that their graves are only a stone's throw from the grave of William Overlin, the Revolutionary Soldier whose Grand-daughter was to marry the son of this Jacob the Second.

Joseph, the second son of Jacob Brant the First, and the brother of Jacob the Second, also went to Indiana. The daughter of Joseph

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Brant Jr. married Elias Pitman of Richmond, Indiana. They were living in that city as late as 1890. Quite a number of Joseph Brant Jr.'s descendants still live in and around Waynetown, Indiana. It was from these people that the father of Harry Brant gleaned much information, dates, names, etc.

John Brant, the first son of Jacob Brant the first, established the J. W. Brant Medicine Company in Battle Creek, Michigan. This concern manufactured Dr. Wheeler's Nervine and other medicines.

Oliver Brant, born January 1, 1792, is the grandfather of Harry Brant now of Kentucky and Co-Author of this book.



JOHN OVERLIN

b about 1735 d after 1780

John Overlin, the founder of the Overlin family in the United States of America was born in London, England, about the year 1735. We learn of him first through a letter in the possession of a member of the family (a copy of this letter is in this history) as a British Soldier who came to America bringing with him his ten year old son, William Overlin. John Overlin, the father, left the British Army and joined the cause of the Colonies.

The A.G.O. records show that John Overlin served in the 13th Virginia Regiment and the 9th when the 13th was merged with the 9th. He was a Private in Capt. Robert Beall's Co., Col William Russell's Regiment 13th Virginia; enlisted December 20, 1776; re-enlisted in September 1777 for the duration of the war. He then became a Private under Col. John Gibson in 9th Virginia Regiment, served at Fort Pitt and Fort McIntosh. He was on the roll as late as February 13th, 1780.

According to the letter mentioned above John Overlin's wife had died in London, England. However, John Overlin left a will in which a wife, Mary is named. Data found in the Nelson Co. Kentucky records (marriages) 1780-1851 show that John Overlin had three daughters:

Isaac Blackburn and Nancy Settles, widow daughter of John Overlin, Nancy b 12-17- 1771 m 8-19-1792 d 12-24-1848 buried in Coutier Cemetery near Peru, Indiana. Bondsman, William Overlin.

William Overlin and Letitia Mckinsey (should be Mckinney) June 9, 1787 mother, Mary Mckinney; bondsman, Thomas Cunningham.

Mary Overlin and Christian Hiber; father John Overlin March 16 1790 Bondsman, Jacob Yoder.

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Mary Overlin and David Kendall June 15, 1790.

Agnes Overlin and Wyet Suttles; father John Overlin June 9, 1790
Bondsman, Thomas Cunningham.

Note:

The name John as the given name of John Overlin is authentic. It is so listed in the roster of Virginia soldiers serving in the Revolutionary Army. Three spellings are listed for William Overlin, the son. They are Overlin, Overlan and Overline.

According to the will of John Overlin the First he had a fifth child named John. This was John the Second, a brother of William.

John Overlin had a half-brother in London, England, who, while his kin fought for the cause of the Colonies died. The name of the half-brother was Timothy Childs, his business was that of a Silk weaver. It must have been a very successful business for it is said that he left a fortune of five hundred thousand dollars. The only heir was the half-brother, John, who left the British Army. He dared not return to England to claim the fortune.

Various efforts have been launched but never completed to obtain this large sum of money. Inez Brant Leonard of Monrovia, California had a father-in-law, an old man past eighty who had an old English friend, who had a daughter married to an important English Barrister. Mr. Crisp heard the story of a "Castle in Spain" and suggested that the case be presented to his son-in-law. The English Lawyer had a Court Judge friend search the records. It was a big surprise and even shock to learn that the name of Timothy Childs could not be found on the records. The final gesture seems to have been made and the curtain rung down. This all happened a number of years ago before the death of Grandpa Leonard which occurred August 24, 1936. With present conditions in England after World War II the story seems indeed to be concluded.

WILLS - 1792 - 1858

Abstracts

John Overlin I

Washington Co. Ky. - page 42

dated 11,1,1800 - proved 2,3,1801

"———land I purchased of Thomas Cunningham in Green Co. on Bush Creek, ——give 100 acres so as to include the plantation called Saddlers Plantation - and spring to my beloved wife Mary 100 acres to my son John 100 acres to daughter Mary Kinle".

Wife & Son John

Witnesses

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Executors

John Nall
Coleman Brown

Will (Book A - page 180)

I John Overlin of the State of Kentucky and County of Washington being sick in body but of sound mind do make this my last will and Testament making void all other wills and testaments.

Th land I purchased of Thomas Cunningham in Green County on Brush Creek I gave one Hundred Acres to be Laid off so as to include the plantation called Saddlers plantation & Spring to my beloved Wife, Mary Overlin to be at her own Disposal the Other two hundred acres I give and bequeath one Hundred acres to my son John Overlin the other Hundred acres I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Kindle. Afer my just debts are paid I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Mary Overlin all my personal Estate to be at her disposal also book debts lands and bills whereunto I set my hand and seal the first day of November, 1800.

I leave my wife Mary Overlin
and my son John Overlin as my
executors.

his
John X Overlin SEAL
mark

Test.

John Nall
Coleman Brown

At a County Court held for Washington County on Tuesday the 3rd day of February 1801.

This last will and testament of John Overlin deed was proved by the oaths John Nall and Coleman Brown and sworn by Mary Overlin one of the extors. therein named and ordered to be recorded.

Attest William Caldwell C.W.C.

State of Kentucky,)
Washington County,)

(Sct.

I, John M. Smothers, County Court Clerk in and for the County and State aforesaid, do certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the will of John Overlin, deceased, as it appears on record in my office in Will Book A., page 180.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this the 17th day of September, 1951.

John M. Smothers, Clerk
By Jane Osbourn D. C.



THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

BLACKBURN - Genealogy **Nancy Overlin-daughter of** **John Overlin & Mary Overlin**

Isaac Blackburn - Born April 26-1767 in Shenandoah County Va. and at the age of 25 was married to Nancy Overlin on August 19-1792 at Bardstown, Nelson County Ky., by the Deputy County Clerk Ben Lynn and William Overlin brother to Nancy was the Bondsman

Nancy Overlin, was a widow by name of Settles (Suttles) when Isaac married her. Nancy was born Dec. 17-1771 and was 77 years old when she died on December 24, 1848, in the Courtier Cemetery her remains were placed to rest by her husband Isaac as he lived about 15 years after her death. The Courtier Cemetery is located out from Peru Ind. very near to a small town called Chili Ind. In this Cemetery there are the graves of 12 Blackburn descendants all in a row. The Nelson County Ky. marriage license further shows that Nancy Overlin was the daughter of John Overlin.

Isaac and Nancy Blackburn evidently migrated to Ohio, as the US CENSUS of 1820 list them as being in Reily township, Butler County, Ohio and that they had 3 sons and 1 daughter in their family. Records further established that a son William was born on Dec. 14-1812 in Butler county Ohio. Also a son Robert was born June 8, 1815 in Butler Co. Ohio. Later records show the names of sons as follows: Nanthaniel, David, John, and Isaac II. The three sons named Nathaniel, David, and Isaac II were never married.

Isaac Blackburn was a couple months past his 96 birthday when he died June 30-1863 in Miami County Indiana and was buried in the Courtier Cemetery along side Nancy. He died during the Civil war in the States. He was living with his son William when he died according to the census 1860. He had three brothers, William David and John that we know of.

Robert Blackburn, son of Isaac and Nancy Blackburn was born June 8-1813 in Butler County Ohio., died December 1-1869 in Miami County Ind. and is buried in Courtier Cemetery near Chili, Ind. age 54 years.

Roberts first wife was named Jane (surname unknown) and to this union were born 5 children; William Nelson, John Thomas, Daniel, Elias Henry and Isaac Newton died at the ages of 3 and 4 years respectively and William Nelson lived 30-years died in Miami County Ind. John Thomas died at the age of 21. He was a soldier in the Civil war and died in a hospital in Murfreesboro Tenn. of measles. Daniel lived to the age of 75 years a successful farmer near Gallatine

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Mo. and died there July 6-1922.

Roberts wife Jane died and at about the age of 40 years, records show he was married to Cecelia Ann King, April 5-1855 in White County Ind. near Monticello. To this union was born 5 children; Willard Elmer, Robert Oscar, Lucius Kelly and Charles Homer and daughter which died same day of birth. Robert Oscar died at age of 9-years. Charles Homer died age 54 years at Gallatin Mo. Lucius Kelly died age 65 years near Mexico, Ind. Willard Elmer died at the age of 86 years at Gallatin, Mo.

Willard Elmer Blackburn, son of Robert and Cecelia Ann Blackburn was born Aug. 25 1857 in Cass County Ind. near Logansport and died Oct. 20 1940 at Gallatin, Missouri. When he was 12 years old his father died and he was obliged to work during the day and go to school at night - but he acquired his education early and was teaching school long before he was 21 years old in Ind. He went to Gallatin Mo. to visit his half-brother Daniel Blackburn and there met and married Virginia Lee Wood, April 9- 1883 at Kingston, Mo. To this union were born 6-children: Pearle Mable, Jewel Crossing, Frances Clara, Virgil Homer, Ladye Juanita and Forrest Wesley.

PEARLE today is Mrs. Harry H. Lewis living in Chicago, Ill.

JEWEL- died at the age of 4-months- buried at Gallatin Mo.

FRANCES- today is living in Gallatin, Mo., Mrs. Charles H. Bryant

HOMER- today is living in Chicago, Ill.

FORREST- today is living at Gallatin, Mo.

LADYE- today is Mrs. Wm. Edward Sawyer living at St. Petersburg, Florida.



WILLIAM OVERLIN

William Overlin, the son of John Overlin I, the British soldier was born in London, England, on the 12th day of December 1765. He was only ten years old when he came with his father to the United States of America. The wife and mother had died in London, England. At the age of twelve years, William became a fifer in the Continental Army. He served from 1777 to 1783. He saw service in the battles of Germantown and Brandywine. This is known because he was wounded in those battles. He was in the baggage guard at the battle of Brandywine. In his later years he drew a pension. It is found in the A.G.O. records that William Overlin received the one hundred acres of land for his service with the Vir-

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

ginia Regiment. The original warrant, issued June 24, 1783, No 1009 does not show his residence at that time. His residence is not shown when he assigned the land to Mickiel Gernhart. William made his mark with Providence Mounts and William Clark as witnesses. Later land was taken on this and another warrant, No. 1020, and surveyed for Alexander Armstrong, land in Clark and Armstrong Counties, Ohio

William Overlin and Letitia McKinny were married in Bardstown Kentucky in June 1787. (name is now Bardstown). The pension papers give the day as June 10 or 12 but the Nelson County, Kentucky records (marriages) 1780-1851 give the day as the 9th which seems to be the correct day. The William Overlin family moved to Southern Indiana early in 1800.

The following data is taken from a "Warrick, Spencer and Perry County History".

Page 265:

Luce Township: Families began to arrive there as early as 1810 or 11. Among these early settlers "William Overlin".

Page 266:

Land entries in Luce Township prior to 1820

William Overlin, January 1818.

Section 17

At presidential Election in Luce Township November 5, 1832
voters - William Overlin

Page 284:

Eli Overlin was County Collector for 1836. Again Collector in 1838. (Eli Overlin was a son of William and mentioned in his will)

Page 294:

Justice of the Peace, Eli Overlin 1831, again in 1836.

William Overlin left a will a certified copy of which is included in this history. In this will six children are mentioned. However a list of the children born to William Overlin and Letitia McKinney Overlin dated October 21, 1818, gives the number of children as thirteen. It is possible that several died in infancy. The list is included in this record.

According to the will of William Overlin, Letitia, his widow was to inherit the land and other items as long as she was his widow. John and William (son) were to inherit the land at their mother's death. Polly (no one knows who bore nickname of Polly) was to receive a muley cow and a flax wheel among other items. The heirs of two deceased daughters, Delilah Overlin Clark and Selah Overlin Hard-

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

esty, were willed one dollar each. The wife Letitia and son Eli were appointed Executrix and Executor of the will.

William Overlin died February 24, 1837, and is buried in the Baker's Creek Cemetery, near Eureka Luce Township in Spencer County Indiana. A monument erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1938 marks the grave.

Emily Overlin Hopkins was the youngest of the thirteen children born to William and Letitia Overlin. She was born on July 4, 1813. According to the records she is the one member of the "Clan" who died of cancer. Inez Brant Leonard remembers of being taken to see her by her parents when a child of some four years. Emily Overlin Hopkins was her Great-Great-Aunt. She was in a huge bed by a large fireplace. The cancer was on the right side of her neck just below the ear. It was called a "Rose Cancer" in those days. Her story is that being the weaver of the family and using the dyes of those days, the cancer was caused by direct infection. She died about 1891 and left one daughter whose name is not known.

(From the national archives, Washington, D. C.)

(Written October 21, 1818.) William Overlin was aged fifty-three on December 12, 1818. He enlisted in Westmoreland County, in the state of Pennsylvania, in the Company commanded by Captain Robert Beall of the 13th Virginia Regiment and by the Colonel John Gibson. He transferred to the Virginia Regiment and again transferred to the 7th Virginia Regiment. He enlisted for a fifer. He enlisted in the year 1777 for during the war and that some time in the summer of 1783 he was honorably discharged at Pittsburg Pennsylvania, by General Irwin and Colonel Gibson. At the time of discharge he belonged to Captain Benjamin Beggs Company, in the battle of Germantown. He was in the baggage guard at the battle of Brandywine.

William Overlin and Letitia McKinny were married in Bairdstown June 10, 1787. Letitia Overlin, was the sister of John McKinney. William Overlin departed this life February 24th, 1837-age-70 years.

To William and Letitia Overlin were born the following:
Jonathon Overlin was born August the 29th in the year of our Lord, 1792.

Delila Overlin was born March 14th in the year of our Lord, 1790.
William Overlin was born 1788.

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Ann Overlin was born June 10th in the year 1794.
 Eli Overlin born March 23rd 1796.
 Mary Overlin was born April 30, 1798.
 Celia Overlin was born August 6, 1800.
 John Overlin was born Feb. 14, 1803
 Daniel Overlin was born in the year 1805.
 Billy Overlin later known as William, was born December 27th,
 1808 or 1809.
 Jane Overlin was born October, 1806, or 1807.
 Letitia Overlin was born April 19th, 1811.
 Emily Overlin was born July 4, 1813.



REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORDS SECTION. 3-525

I.S.C.	Department of the Interior,
Wid. File 9612	Bureau of Pensions.
Rev. War.	Washington, D. C., Sept. 29, 1913.
Miss Inez Brant,	
Clinton, Indiana.	

Madam:-

In reply to your request of 22" inst. received 23" inst., for a statement of the military history of William Overlin, a soldier of the REVOLUTIONARY WAR, you will find below the desired information as contained in his (or his widow's) application for pension on file in this Bureau.

Dates of Enlistment or	Length of Service	Rank	Officers under whom service was rendered	State
---------------------------	----------------------	------	--	-------

Appointment	Captain	Colonel	
Dec. 1777 to Summer 1783-Fifer Robert Beall	John Gibson		Va.

Pri. Benjamin Biggs John Gibson

Battles engaged in, Germantown.

Residence of soldier at enlistment, Enlisted in Westmoreland Co. Pa.

Date of application for pension, Oct. 24, 1818, his claim was allowed.

Residence at date of application, Warick Co. Indiana

Age at date of application, "fifty three years 12 Dec. next".

Remarks: Soldier married at Bairdstown, Ky, June 10, 1787, Letitia

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

McKinzy or McKenny born May 2, 1771; he died Feby.24, 1837 in Spencer Co., Ind., where she resided when she applied for pension in 1842. Her claim was allowed.

Respectfully,

GM Saltzgaber &
Commissioner.



WILLIAM OVERLIN'S WILL

In the Name of God Amen. Being weak in body but of perfect sound mind memory do make and established this my last will and Testament in figures and words following towit:

First I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Letitia my land with all the appertenances belonging thereto containing Eighty acres while she remains my widow also the best bed I have with the necessary bedding to keep her comfortably warm also one bedstead also one cow and to have choice of the flock also one years provision, such as she may make choice of also as much of the cooking utensils and cupboard ware as she wants. 2nd I give and bequeath unto my daughter Polly my flax wheel check reel and muley heifer, also one years provisions such as she may make choice of extra of her proportionable part of my Estate.

3rd. I give and bequeath unto my sons John and William my land containing Eighty acres with all the appurtenances belonging thereto at their mother's death.

4th. I give and bequeath unto the heirs of my daughter Delilah Clark one dollar.

5th. I give and bequeath unto the heirs of my daughter Selah Hardesty one dollar.

6th. The residue of my property I want sold and the proceeds equally divided among my living heirs after my beloved wife Leticia deducting her dowry.

7th. I appoint my beloved wife Leticia and my son Eli executrix and executor of this my last will and testament.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and seal this 14th day of July in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Six Signed and sealed in the presence of Rodney Pitt and John McKinny.

His
William X Overlin SEAL
Mark

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

The State of Indiana
Spencer County SS:

1441175

This day came John McKinney before me Clerk of said Court and made oath that William Overlin signed sealed and published the foregoing as his Last Will and Testament and at the time of doing these things he believed the said William Overlin was of sound mind and disposing memory and that himself and Rodney Pitt were called on and did in the presence of each other subscribe their names as witnesses this 24 March, 1837.

Th. P. Britton, Clerk
CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF SPENCER SS:

I, W. P. Jolly, Clerk of the Spencer Circuit Court, for and within said County and State, do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and complete copy of the Last will and Testament of William Overlin, as the same appears of record in my office in Will Record No. "A" at Pages 200-201.

In Testimony Whereof, I Hereunto Set My Hand and
Affix The Official Seal Of Said Spencer Circuit Court
At My Office In The 7th Day Of December, 1942.

W. P. Jolly

CLERK SPENCER CIRCUIT COURT

By Nellie Jolly

Deputy



JOHN OVERLIN III

Born 2-14-1803

Nancy Hawkins (dates not known)

John Overlin the Third, was the son of William Overlin, the Fifer Boy of the American Revolution and the grandson of John Overlin the First, former British soldier. Ten children were born to John and Nancy according to the letter already mentioned, a copy of which is included in this genealogy. Minerva Overlin, born March 3, 1832, Spencer County, Indiana died October 29, 1902, in Omaha, Nebraska was one of the ten.

Minerva Overlin and Jacob Brant the Third were married on December 9, 1849, in Spencer County, Indiana. It was in this marriage the Brant and Overlin lines merged.

Jacob Brant the Third, was born June 27, 1827 in Spencer County, Indiana. He was the son of Jacob Brant II and his wife Ann. Dates

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

on their tombstones in Baker's Creek Cemetery near Eureka, Luce Township in Southern Indiana, show that Jacob Brant Sr., (Sr. is the way the tombstone has the name) was born in 1800, died 11-27-1833 and that Ann (only "Ann" on the stone) was born 1797 and died 11-27-1837. Jacob Brant II was the first Jacob Brant of Spencer County Indiana, and he and Ann left three children. These children were Patsy Brant Gardner, Jane Brant Herrell and Jacob Brant the Third. He was still a little boy when left an orphan and was raised by his sister Patsy Brant Gardener.

Jacob Brant Sr., the first Jacob Brant of Spencer County, Indiana was really Jacob Brant the Second and will be known as such hereafter. He was the grandson of the Mohawk Indian Chief, Joseph Brant. Jacob Brant the First was the son of Chief Joseph Brant and his third wife, Catherine Croghan. Catherine was the daughter of Col. Croghan by an Indian wife. The first Jacob Brant, son of Chief Joseph Brant and Catherine was born in Canajoharie, 1770, in New York. After the American Revolution he with his brother Joseph Jr. was sent to Dartmouth College at Hanover, New Hampshire.

In 1790, when Jacob the First was twenty years of age, he married by either common law or legal marriage, Mary or Mariah Lancaster. Their first son was named John. The second son, Joseph was born in 1791. A third son, Oliver, (grandfather of Harry T. Brant of Kentucky) was born on January 1, 1792. During the next years several daughters were born.

The last son who was given the name of Jacob in honor of his father was born in 1800. This son after he was grown went to Southern Indiana and became known as Jacob Brant the First or Sr. and hereafter will be known as Jacob Brant II.

The second son of Jacob Brant the First, Joseph, also went to Indiana. His daughter married Elias Pitman of Richmond, Indiana. They were living in that city as late as 1890. Quite a number of Joseph's descendants still live in and around Waynetown, Indiana.

It was from these people that Oliver Brant (grandfather of Harry T. Brant of Kentucky) gleaned much information, dates, names, etc.



RECORD OF JACOB BRANT II and his wife Ann Brant

Jacob Brant II	b	1800	
	d	11-7-1833	dates are from tombstones
	m		Baker's Creek Cemetery

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Ann
b 1797
d 11-27-1837

Spencer Co., Indiana

CHILDREN

Patsy Brant, who married a man by the name of Hicks, who died then a man by the name of J. O. Gardner.

Jane Brant, who married Lewis Herrell.

Jacob Brant III b 6-27-1827 Spencer Co., Indiana

d 3- 5-1878 Spencer Co., Indiana

m 12-9-1849 Spencer Co., Indiana

Minerva Overlin

b 3-18-1832 Spencer Co., Indiana

d 10-29-1902 Omaha, Nebraska



CHILDREN OF JACOB BRANT III and MINERVA BRANT

Isabell Brant b 2-22-1851 Spencer Co., Indiana

d 4-13-1878 Ebenezer Cemetery, Spencer Co.

James Daniel Brant b 8-13-1853 Spencer Co., Indiana

d 7-13-1930 Monrovia, California

Live Oak Cemetery

Orlando Brant b 3-24-1857 Spencer, Co., Indiana

d 11-14-1912 Warrick Co., Indiana

Asbury Cemetery (near Chandler)

Henry E. Brandt b 7- 1-1860 Spencer Co., Indiana

d 8- 1-1923 Wyoming

Jacob Brant IV b 8-24-1862 Spencer Co., Indiana

d 1-29-1921 Petaluma, California

Cypress Hill Cemetery

Lulu Addie Brant b 8-23-1865 Spencer Co., Indiana

d 7-17-1898 Laramie, Wyoming

Blanche Alice Brant b 9- 5-1871 Spencer Co., Indiana

d 9-22-1935 Scotts Bluff, Nebraska



JACOB BRANT, THE THIRD MINERVA OVERLIN

Children

Isabell Brant, died at age of twenty seven, unwed

James Daniel Brant

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

wed
Mary Alice Turpin

who bore to him
Inez Brant
James Delbert Brant

Orlando Brant

wed
Lizzie Maria Wakelin

who bore to him
Myrtle Joetta Brant
Grace Isabelle Brant

Henry E. Brandt

wed
Alvira Tennessee Hullett

who bore to him
Merville Edward Brandt
Sarah Ruth Brandt

Jacob Brant IV

wed
Nancy Elizabeth Pyrtle

who bore to him
LeRoy Verne Brant
Dorothy F. Ruth Brant

Lulu Addie Brant

wed
Isaac Minor Frye

who bore to him
Clarence Donald Frye
Pearl Frye
Hattie Clemintine, died in infancy

Blanche Alice Brant

wed
Jesse Morton Heldenbrand

and bore to him
Pearle Ina Heldenbrand
Floyd Heldenbrand
Fae Adeline Heldenbrand and
Rae Nelson Heldenbrand (twins)
Opal Vera Heldenbrand

wed
Louis Morton Williams

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

and bore to him
Ralph Williams
Evelyn Williams
Harold Williams



CHART SHOWING THE LINE OF DESCENT BACK TO BRENT OR BRANT, THE SCOTCH HUDSON FUR TRADER

Mary Del Smith — born 12-8-1918

daughter of

Inez Brant — born 9-12-1887

Dr. James Marion Smith — born 12-31-1857 died 1-16-1942

Inez Brant

daughter of

James Daniel Brant — born 8-13-1853 died 7-13-1930

Mary Alice Turpin — born 12-28-1851 died 7-23-1932

James Daniel Brant

son of

Jacob Brant III born 6-27-1827 died 3-5-1878

Minerva Overlin — born 3-18-1832 died 10-29-1902

Jacob Brant III

son of

Jacob Brant II — born 1800 died 11-7-1833

Ann — born 1797 died 11-27-1837

Jacob Brant II

son of

Jacob Brant I — born 1790

Mary or Mariah Lancaster

Jacob Brant I

son of

Chief or Captain Joseph Brant (Thayendanagea) — b 1742 d 1807

Catherine Croghan (3) —

Chief Joseph Brant

son of

Nickus Brant (Tahowaughwengaraughkwin)

Indian Princess (Head of Council of Women)

Nickus Brant

son of

Brent or Brant

Indian Princess



THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

COPY OF A LETTER

by

Mrs. William Egger
(Stella Jane Meadows)
Olney, Illinois

A GRAND-DAUGHTER OF
Jane Brant (who married Lewis Harrell
sister of Jacob Brant III
March 12, 1944

Dear Cousin:

I am writing you a few lines in reply to the letter I rec'd from you a few days ago. My mother's name was Martha (usually called Mattie) Jane Herrell. She was born the 12th day of July in 1860, passed away on the 10th day of February 1897 in Richland County Illinois. She was married to James B. Meadows on the 2nd day of March 1884 at Eureka, Indiana, by Walker Winkler. To this union were born three child'ren. Stella Jane (myself) on the 2nd day of February 1885, John Lewis on the 6th day of November 1886 and Fredrick Herbert on the 2nd day of January 1891.

John, who was married to Lola B. Johnston, passed away five years ago the 25th of this month at the age of 52 years, 4 months and 20 day. He was born in Spencer Co., Indiana.

Fred was born in Spencer Co., Indiana. Was married to Ruth O. Wheeler of Olney, Illinois. They have two sons, Marion Fredrick and James Lowell. Marion is in the service of our country, James Lowell lives in Wisconsin. Fred and Ruth live in Olney.

I, too was born in Spencer Co., Indiana, and in 1906 I was married to Wm. Martin Egger of Olney. About nine and a half years after a daughter, Martha Marie was born, the only child we ever had. When she was 18 she was married to Donald Tompson, they had two little boys Billy Don and Jimmie Dale. About six years ago Martha and Don separated and last August she was married to S. Sgt. Carl Tarpley (who is now in England.) He adopted both of Martha's boys. Billy is almost 9 and Jimmie is 7. They live in Olney with their Mother (Martha).

John left one adopted son, Walter Brust Meadows who is now in his second year of High School.

Yes mother had a brother, Uncle Will Herrell, whose first wife I think was Annie Chandler, I am not quite sure about this, you could

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

find out more about it by writing Jim Herrell of Hatfield, Indiana. There were three children, Jim, Louise and Gladys. Uncle Will was married a second time, this time to Belle Hatfield, I think but I don't know much about their family. I am sure Jim could tell you about them.

Mother had another sister besides Aunt Cynthea. Her name was Mary and she married Jesse Scammahorn. They had three children, Anne, Gene, and Chloe (boy). Aunt Mary died the night I was born.

This concludes the history of my Mother's family. My Father passed away four years ago at the age of 78.

He (my husband) and I live on a little farm (our own) about 6 miles northeast of Olney and would be glad to have you visit us.

I remember some of the Brants' Lon and Ed. We were taught to say "Uncle Lon & Uncle Ed", tho they were our Mother's cousins. Myrtle Brant Salyers and her husband visited us a number of years ago. We liked them so much but haven't heard from them for quite some time.

You say you are the grand daughter of Jacob Brant the 2nd. Who is your father?

Hope this will be of some help to you and if I can do any thing more I'll be glad to do it.

Write again telling me more about yourself.

Sincerely Yours

Stella Egger

Olney, Illinois

R. R. 2

Copy of a letter sent to Orlando Brant and Wife, Lizzie in Chandler, Indiana. The Jim mentioned is James Daniel Brant, brother of Orlando. Ed Brant is another brother and Mrs. Williams is Blanche the youngest sister and youngest child. The letter is not correct in all of its data but most of its statements are right. It gave the one who compiled the Brant History a wonderful beginning for research
Elwood, Nebraska, 3-3-13

Dear Brother and Family:

I know you will be surprised to hear from me. It has been a long time since I heard from any of you till about a month ago I got a letter from Ed. Hope you will write to me soon and then I will know what to write. Jim, I am enclosing you a letter from my lawyer and what information I have from Ed. In regard to our estate in England which I hope you know something about, Mother employed a lawyer

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

but she died soon after and as I could tell nothing about it, it was dropped until I chanced to ask Ed if he knew anything about it and this is what he wrote. Answer the lawyer's letter and mine to and address to me. Oh I was so sorry to hear of dear brother's death and to think he wanted to hear from me so bad before he died.

Write and tell me all about your family.

Lovingly your sister,

Mrs. L. M. Williams (Blanche Brant)
Elwood Nebraska

(From Blanche Brant Williams to Lizzie Wakelin Brant)

Dear Sister:

I am enclosing you a letter to Brother Jim or rather a letter from myself and my lawyer who is trying to locate this estate in England. As I did not know Jim's address I thought best to send the letter to you and let you address it to him. I want you to look it over and see if there is anything you can tell me or find out for me. Do you know anything of Mother's ancestors as far back as the Great-great-grand father and down to the present generation. I have a list of the Great-grand parents which Mother gave before she died and then I will copy Ed's letter I got today and you copy all of it and send it on to Jim. Father Jonathan Overlin was born in Virginia. Died in Spencer Co., Indiana 66 years ago. His then postoffice address was Rockport, Indiana. Grand-father William Overlin came over from England with his father when ten years old and was in the Revolutionary War. Died 77 years ago in Spencer Co., Indiana. His then postoffice address was Rockport, Indiana. Great-grand father Overlin first name not known was a Revolutionary soldier, came from England during the war. This is Mother's ancestors. Which would make them our Grand-father, Great-grand father and Great-great-grand father. Now this is Ed's letter. I sent you a copy of the other letter he wrote me. You may also send it to Jim.

Fort Washakie Wyo., 2-21-13

Dear Sister;

Yours of the 19th at hand. I am not positive about this Great great grand Sires first name but think it was Jonathan. A wife had died in England before he came to America, was all the wife I think he ever had. One son named for him Jonathan was his only child, our Great grand father. He only left one child, our grandfather. His name was Jonathan too. He left ten. Our mother, Nancy Overlin Roberts with several heirs, Susan Overlin Gardner one heir, Samuel Overlin 4, James Overlin several, our Mother. I cannot remember any more just now but will not send this off till the day after

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

tomorrow so may be able to think of more before then. This Timothy Childs (the half-brother), the one that left the estate to the Great-great grand sire, was a silk weaver in London, England. London was our Great-grand Sires home until he came to America. I do not know where either of the two older ones died or where they were buried. There has been several attempts made to get this estate but the first parties were stopped by this confiscation. One of the leading spirits died, others have drifted along the river of time with but little thought or care until they did not need it.

Feb. 25

It has occurred to me since last night that one of those Great grand parent's name was Ebenezer, and that our Grandfather had a sister. She was married several times. I think her name was Hopkins when she died. She left one heir, was all. I think our Mother had one other sister married. Her first husband named Jackson. Don't think she left an heir. Jim might be able to tell you more than I could. I cannot think of any more I could do for you unless I write to Washington D.C. and find something of those Great grand Sires as they were Revolutionary soldiers after they deserted from the British army. The above letter is from Ed.

Now he is mistaken in the name of our Great grand father as you will see by the list of Mother's Ancestors, his name was William. I have his military history from Washington. The date of his death

and that of Mother's list correspond as he died in 1837 and Mother's list says he died 77 years ago. Now if any of these Great grand Sires names was Ebenezer it was our Great-great grand father, as we have the other direct from Mother.

Now Lizzie do all you can.

Yours with Love,

Blanche Brant

Jim you send me a list of all the living heirs that you know of. I will write you as near as I can what Ed wrote to me. Our Great-great grand father came over here from England as a British soldier when the two countries were in revolt. He brought with him his son a ten year old boy. This boy got old enough before the War was over to become a soldier too. They deserted and of course could not go back to England or they would have been shot as traitors. This Great great grand Sire left in England a half brother named Timothy Childs who died without children leaving an estate valued at five hundred thousand dollars. But as they were traitors it was

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

probably confiscated by the Crown. Had it been kept intact and at interest it would^d now be many millions. If it was not confiscated by the Crown it is there in London in the Chancery Bank awaiting for us to prove our identity. Now my lawyer says it could not be confiscated and if there we can get it.

Now our Great great grand father's first name I do not know but Mother's father's name was Jonathan and her Grandfather's name (this ten year old boy) was William. They both died in Spencer County, Indiana, their postoffice address being Rockport. But another Great grand father's name I do not know, do you? I want to find out how many heirs there are on this side and then we can begin in the England side and if you assist me in finding out anything it will be as much to your interest as mine. Well dear sister I have written you all for this time I can think of and with love to all and a deep regret that I did not write to my darling brother

I am lovingly your sister

Mrs. L. M. Williams (Blanche Brant)



THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA



Jacob Brant III and his wife, Minerva Overlin Brant

**CERTIFIED COPY
of the
MARRIAGE LICENSE
of Jacob Brant III
to Minerva Overlin**

Marriage License and Clerk's Report Used in Procuring Pensions
Jacob Brant
To
Minerva Overlin

Be it Remembered, That heretofore, to-wit
on the 7th day of December
A.D. 1849, the following Marriage License
was issued, to-wit:

INDIANA, TO-WIT: SPENCER COUNTY,ss;

To all who shall see these Presents, Greetings:
KNOW YE, That any person authorised by law to solemnize
is hereby licensed to join as Husband and Wife
Jacob Brant and Minerva Overland
and for so doing this shall be his sufficient authority.

In Testimony Whereof, I John Crawford Clerk of
the Spencer Circuit Court, hereunto subscribe my name and
affix the seal of said Court,

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

at Rockport, Indiana, this 7th day of December 1849

John Crawford Clerk

BE IT FURTHER REMEMBERED THAT Afterwards, to-wit: on the 9th day of December 1849, the following Certificate of Marriage was filed in my office, to-wit:

INDIANA, TO-WIT: SPENCER COUNTY, ss:

This Certifies, That I joined in marriage as
Husband and Wife

Jacob Brant and Minerva Overland
on the 9th day of December 1849

James H. Noble, Minister of
the Gospel in the Meth., E., Church.

STATE OF INDIANA, SPENCER COUNTY, ss:

I, Lewis Woolfolk, Clerk of the Circuit Court within and for the County of Spencer, and State of Indiana, do hereby certify the foregoing to be true and correct copies of the Marriage License and Certificate of Marriage of

Jacob Brant to Minerva Overlin

as the same appears upon the Marriage Record now on file in my office

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto subscribed my name and affixed the seal of said

Court, at Rockport, Indiana, on this 23rd day of May 1913

Lewis Woolfork Clerk

Spencer Circuit Court, Rockport, Indiana



JACOB BRANT III

Jacob Brant III b-6-27-1827 Minerva Overlin b 3-18-1832
d 3-5-1878 m 12-9-1849 d 10-29-1902

Jacob Brant and Minerva Overlin Brant had seven children. The first was Isabelle b 2-22-1851. She is said to have been beautiful. She died of measles, pneumonia and quick consumption while still in her twenties and unmarried. She is the one known victim of tuberculosis in the family. There were four sons and two more daughters.

Life was primitive in Southern Indiana in that time. Candles were used for light along with the huge fireplace for heat and cooking. The clothes were homespun. The oldest son, James Daniel Brant had his first "store" suit at the age of twenty-one. It was made of black broadcloth and cost forty dollars. The family lived in a log cabin and the boys helped raise tobacco. They had some two hundred

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

acres of cleared land. The soil is very rich in that part of the country a deposit of the Glacial Period.

Jacob Brant III was a man of character and carried out his convictions. The family was religious and Baptist. Jacob III was the first man in his neighborhood to refuse to serve liquor at a log rolling. He was not sure that his logs would be rolled but they were. No liquor served at a log rolling was indeed an innovation in those days. The story behind the decision about liquor was that at the preceding log rolling and house raising there had been a near accident. Near the close of the day during which liquor had flowed quite freely, a big log at the top of the wall had gotten out of hand and almost taken a life. Jacob Brant III died on March 5, 1878 of the third attack of pneumonia. He was buried with Masonic Rites.

He was a member of the Rockport, Indiana, Lodge. He was recommended by: George McCleary and John R. Overlin III (brother in law).

His occupation was given as farmer and the Committee of Inquiry was G. J. Mason, Ford Wilkinson, and R. N. McCoy. He was initiated at the age of thirty-seven on May 21, 1866. He was passed on October 16, 1866, and was raised on November 19, 1866. The initiation fee was twenty dollars and the dues twenty-five cents a month. Jacob Brant III did not serve his country in the Civil war because of his health. After his death the mortgage on the farm was closed after a fashion that left a sad memory of the whole affair. The land was desirable and a rich man and a friend wanted it. Life must have been hard for the family. The father was taken in March. The oldest child and daughter followed in April. She was young, beautiful and loved by her four brothers. The old home was gone. Mother Minerva took the two little girls, Addie and Blanche and went West to Nebraska. There in due time she married again a man by the name of Bundy, a hotel man. She passed away in Omaha, Nebraska, the result of a broken hip sustained in a fall. The family Bible records show that she died on October 29, 1902, at two thirty P. M. and was buried on October 31 in Forest Lawn, Omaha, Nebraska.



A GENEALOGY OF JACOB BRANT II AND HIS WIFE ANN
(maiden name is not known, only Ann is on the stone)

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Ann bore Jacob Brant II, grandson of Chief Joseph, three children Patsy, who first married Hicks who died, and then J. O. Gardner Jane, who married Lewis Herrell.

Jacob Brant III, who married Minerva Overlin, great-grand daughter of John I and grand daughter of William Overlin by John Overlin III



JOHN OVERLIN IVth's MASONIC AFFILIATIONS

Dear Inez;

I was glad to get your letter and am pleased to comply with the record-Masonic-of John R. Overlin.

Recommended by: George McClary and Reuben McCoy.

Occupation: Farmer

Residence: Spencer County

Committee of Inquiry: John F. Thomas, Amos Woodruff and
Joshua McKinney

Age when Initiated: 35 years

These men lived in Luce Township and I have often thought what an effort it must have been to drive to Rockport for Lodge meetings.

Initiated: February 20, 1865

Passed: April 17, 1865

Raised: June 5, 1865

I imagine that to develop a family Genealogy is an interesting but very nerve racking procedure. To me it would be like trying to solve problems in Calculus. There is one difference-in Calculus there is somebody that knows the answer while in Genealogy some of the missing parts can never be found.

We will be looking forward to seeing you in Indiana this fall.

Regards and best wishes,

Very truly yours,

(Benn H. Atkinson) signed

Note: Benn H. Atkinson is a cousin of author, Inez Brant Leonard, by marriage (maternal line)



JACOB BRANT III'ds MASONIC AFFILIATIONS COPY

of a letter regarding
Jacob Brant III

February 10, 1948

Secretary, Rockport Masonic Lodge
Rockport, Indiana

Dear Sir and Brother:

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

I desire to learn if my grandfather, Jacob Brant, was a member of your lodge. I have been informed that such is the case.

Jacob Brant died March 5, 1878. I am told he was buried with Masonic rites.

If my grandfather was a member of your lodge I should appreciate your giving me as much information regarding his Masonic history as your records furnish.

I am a member of Friendship Lodge No. 210, F. & A. M., San Jose, California, where I was for many years organist. I am and have been for the past 29 years organist for the San Jose Scottish Rite Bodies, holding the degree of K.C.C.H.

I shall be very grateful for any help you can give me in this matter.

Fraternally yours,

(signed) LeRoy V. Brant

Dear Sir and Brother:

There are no minutes available for that period. I copied his Ledger Record which you will find on the reverse side.

Please pardon delay.

Franternally yours,

(signed) Ben H. Atkinson, Secretary

Rockport Lodge, No. 112, F. & A. M., Rockport, Indiana

Masonic Record of Jacob Brant

Recommended by: George McCleary and John R. Overlin

Occupation: Farmer

Residence: Luce Township

Committee of Inquiry: S. J. Mason, Ford Wilkinson and R. N. McCoy

Age when initiated: 37 years

Initiated: May 21, 1866

Passed: October 16, 1866

Raised: November 19, 1866

Initiation fee: \$20.00

Dues: 25 cents per month



RECORD OF JAMES DANIEL BRANT son of Jacob Brant III & Minerva Overlin

James Daniel Brant	b 8-13-1853 Spencer Co. Indiana
	m 10- 5-1875
	d 7-13 1930 Monrovia Live Oak Cemetery
America Baugh	b 4- 6-1847 1st wife - died
	d 3-22-1876
Julia A. G. Willson	b 11- 9-1853 2nd wife - divorced

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

m 7- 9-1877

Ila Ona Brant — Child of this union

b 9- 5-1880

d 12- 5-1880

Mary Alice Turpin

3rd wife

b 12-28-1851 Rockport, Indiana

d 7-23-1932 Monrovia Live Oak Cemetery

m 6- 2-1886 Rockport, Indiana

Children of this union

Inez Brant & James Delbert Brant

Inez Brant

b 9-12-1887 Rockport, Indiana

m 1-23-1918 Los Angeles, California

d

Dr. James Marion Smith

b 12-28-1859 Illinois

d 1-16-1942 Pocatello, Idaho

divorced 1922

Mary Del Smith

child of this union, Monrovia, California

Charles Foster Leonard

2nd husband of Inez Brant

b 9-10-1890 Ohio

m 9-28-1929 Monrovia, California

d 11-12-1944 Monrovia, California

James Delbert Brant

b 6-26-1889

m 11-30-1916 West Frankfort, Illinois

d

Mary Emma Russell

b 9-18-1898 Illinois

d

Mary Del Smith

b 12- 8-1918

d

m 1- 4-1944 Douglas, Arizona

Richard Lambert Auten, b 11-4 -1921 Des Moines, Iowa

Lt. Air. Corps Army of the U.S.



JAMES DANIEL BRANT

Born 8-13-1853 Spencer Co., Indiana

Married 6-2-1886 Rockport, Indiana

Died 7-13-1930 Monrovia, California

James Daniel Brant, the second child and first son of Jacob Brant III and Minerva Overlin, was born on Saturday, August 13, 1853, on his father's tobacco farm in Spencer County, Indiana. As an adult

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

he was six feet tall with black hair, brown eyes, fair skin and a reddish brown curly beard. He had a keen sense of humor which appears in various members of the family. Grace Brant Fisher has the same wonderful sense of humor and also her daughter, Anna Grace Fisher Howerton. He received his education in the country schools of the day, a small Methodist College in Rockport, Indiana, and the state Normal Training School for Teachers located in Terra Haute, Indiana. He began teaching at the age of seventeen. He taught for more than thirty years and was regarded as an authority on grammar and mathematics in Spencer County. For a number of years he held a Local Methodist Preacher's License. After thirty years in the school room, his summers spent in teaching Summer School, selling Cram's Atlas of the World and collecting delinquent taxes for Spencer Co., he became an agent for the Prudential Insurance Co. in Rockport in 1903. He and his family, consisting of wife and two children moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in the winter of 1905 and 1906. In 1910 he was sent to Clinton, Indiana, as Assistant Superintendent by Prudential. In the winter of 1917 he became ill and in July he with his wife and daughter moved to Los Angeles, sent by Prudential. He never regained his health enough to work for the Insurance Company but reverted to out of doors work that he learned as a boy on the farm. He pruned trees and at that time there were many citrus groves in the vicinity of Morovia, where the family located.

He was a member of the Methodist church, a Republican and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

James Daniel Brant died on July 13, 1930, in Monrovia, California, of a cerebral hemorrhage after an illness of only ten days. He was buried with the rites of the I.O.O.F. Lodge in Live Oak Cemetery in Monrovia.

James Daniel Brant was married three times. America Baugh born 1847, married October 5, 1875, and died March 22, 1876, was his first wife.

Julia G. Wilson born November 9, 1853, married July 8, 1877, was the second wife. They had one child, a daughter, Ila Ola born September 5, 1880, and died December 5, 1880. She was found dead in her bed. James Daniel Brant and his second wife were divorced.

James Daniel Brant and his third wife, Mary Alice Turpin were married on June 2, 1886, in Rockport, Indiana.

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

A LETTER BY JAMES DANIEL BRANT

Clinton, Indiana
March 17, 1916

Mothers Club
Rockport, Indiana.
Dear Mothers:

I see by last week's Rockport Journal an invitation to all former pupils of Nunn's school to meet in solemn session on March 24th at the close of the Nunn's school of the present year for the purpose of displaying old time manners and customs and having a general good time.

Now I suppose I belong to some of the classes mentioned, since I was a pupil in that school at one time under "Bill" Whiteside, and I taught school there one term. I don't know how good the work was but I put in the time, held down the job, got the money and a forty dollar suit of broad cloth, the best dressed kid in Luce Township.

Speaking of old time school customs, when I began my career as a teacher it was the custom to elect the teachers by popular vote of the district and I got my share of campaigning; I ran for seven schools and of course the people were all goin' to vote for me and I got one vote each for the first six schools I ran for, but the seventh it seemed my luck changed and I got all the votes but one, that was at the old, old Barnett school house

When I taught Nunn's school, Joshua McKenney was trustee, and it was the fashion for the teacher to go around with a petition and get the patrons to sign (if he could). I remember I had my petition all decorated with drawings of flowers around the margins and of course I got the most names in the school district, and the school.

There was another custom in vogue at the time I taught Nunn's school "Visiting Around" i. e.-going home with the pupils to "stay all night" and eat dinner with the kids next day. I don't recall at the present time but one such visit made by me that winter, that was at George Bauman's out in the willow pond and I think the reason I recall that so vividly over all the rest is because of the weather when I made the visit and the road which was not a road but a streak of mud. Had a pleasant evening and night alright after the heroic exertion of getting there.

Reverting to "Bill" Whiteside's school will say this; that it was one of the bright spots in my life, strange to say I don't remember but one girl that attended that school, that was Malissa Allensworth, I must have been kinder struck on her or I might have remembered

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

some other girl. I always was a great admirer of the girls and am yet for that matter, am just as young as I ever was only my head is whiter and my feet a little heavier.

Now I know all these people named in this program except the Dr. De Tar and Mrs. Pattie and Mrs Hawkins, and I might know them if they weren't going under assumed names.

R. L. McCoy went to school with me at Richland but I don't know that he is any worse off for it, and he is certainly a good selection to give "The History of Luce Township" as he has been all over it time and again at some time in the day or night.

John C. Haines and Riley Walters attended my school at Nunn's school house. I have often wondered if J. C. knows anything about what went with my dinner bucket and pewter spoon the night I visited at Bauman's. I consider these two fine boys a fine selection to give the neighborhood gossip. I wonder if they'll tell about the raids on the watermelon patches, the egg roasts and the chicken frys they participated in, in their younger days or I wonder if they'll deny the whole shootin-match.

There never was but one watermelon patch in Spencer County from which I could steal watermelons day or night with impunity, without fear or favor and that was old "Uncle Jimmie Singleton's." I was his pet, he called me his name sake and if he caught me stealing watermelons out of his patch he would sit down and help me eat 'em. He gave me a dime when I was a kid, the first money ever my own, and I would give fifty dollars today for that identical dime.

If Dr. Jolly does as good a job at dishing up the history of Spencer County as he does at dealing out pills and dosing out quinine you'll be highly entertained and will get all the facts in the case and if he makes any mistakes he'll just have somebody cover 'em up.

I knew Wayne Nunn and Uriah McCoy when I was just a small boy and that has been several moons and they must be getting pretty well along on the shady side of forty and I guess they'll tell you about the log-rollings, barn raisings, peach and apple cuttings, corn huskings and they might slip in something about the hoe down dance, and the forfeit parties.

In regard to the spinning wheel mentioned I have seen many a one of them and I am glad Aunt Nerva Hains is alive and able to demonstrate to the young people how they used to make cloth. The first whole suit I ever owned the jeans were woven by Mrs. Martin Harmon of Richland and Mother made them. I think I was prouder of that suit than I was of the forty dollar broad cloth suit previously

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

mentioned.

It seems funny to me to speak about uncle John Singleton (that is the way he used to talk about his dad, we called him Uncle Jim or Uncle Jimmie.) But John has been playing the fiddle a long time and if practice makes perfect he ought to give you some soul stirring strains like "Old Dan Tucker" and the "Devils Dream" which used to be my favorites.

The pipe dream is over. Good night.

Yours truly,
James D. Brant



MARY ALICE TURPIN

b — 12-28-1851 Rockport, Indiana
d — 7-23-1932 Monrovia, California
m — 6- 2-1886 Rockport, Indiana
daughter of

Dr. JAMES K. TURPIN

b — 7-17-1823 Wayne County, Kentucky
m — 2- 3-1846 Rockport, Indiana
d — 7-18-1907 Rockport, Indiana
married

HARRIET NEWEL WOODWARD

b — 12-15-1825 Cincinnati, Ohio
d — 4-3-1899 Newtonville, Spencer County, Indiana

Mary Alice Turpin b — 12-28-1851 was born in Rockport, Indiana to Dr. James K. Turpin and Harriett Newel Woodward. She had one brother five years older than she, William Turpin. He married and left three living children to attain adulthood. There were abouts at present is not known. There were two sons, Charles and Ray and one daughter, Mabel.

Mary Alice Turpin received her education in private schools, no public school at the time, and the Collegiate Institute of Rockport from which she graduated June 13, 1872. She taught school for eight years before her marriage to James Daniel Brant, both in the town and country schools. She is listed on a catalogue of Rockport Public Schools of 1879 as a first grade teacher. She was a small person, only five feet and one inch tall. She was very blond

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

with blue eyes and fair skin. She was a member of the Methodist Church and sang in their choir for some twenty years. She had what in her day was called an alto voice. She was a member of the Womens' Christian Temperance Union, the Methodist Episcopal Church, Womons' Relief Corps and Monrovia Rebekah Lodge No. 151.

James Daniel Brant and Mary Alice Turpin were married at an evening wedding in the Turpin home in Rockport, Indiana, on June 2 1886. The house still stands, a two story frame, next to the Methodist Church on Fifth Street. The corner lot on which the church is built was sold to the church by Dr. Turpin. The building is of brick and is in a beautiful state of preservation. For her wedding the bride wore a dress made of saphire blue taffeta with leg o'mutton sleeves and paniers of matching blue brocaded velvet. The basque was fastened down the front with many buttons and the top of the sleeves were of the blue brocaded velvet. There were twenty-two yards of material in the dress with its box plaited underskirt. The dress was made by the bride and her mother.

Two children were born to this marriage. They were Inez Brant Leonard and James Delbert Brant. Both children were born in Rockport. Inez was born September 12, 1887, in the house where her parents were married. James Delbert was born in a brick house on Third about where the Public Library now stands.

Mary Alice Turpin Brant died in Monrovia, California, on July 23 1932, and was buried with the services of the Rebekah Lodge No. 151 of Monrovia. She was buried in Live Oak Cemetery.

The parents of Mary Alice Turpin Brant were Dr. James K. Turpin
b — 7-17-1823 d — 7-18-1907 and Harriet N. Woodward
b — 12-15-1825 m — 2-3-1846 d — 4-13-1899

The parents of Dr. Turpin were George K. Turpin and Jennie MacDonald Turpin. They lived on a plantation in Wayne County Kentucky where they raised fine horses and owned a few slaves. Jennie MacDonald is said to have been a very good violinist.

The following is taken from a history of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties.

Dr. James K. Turpin — Wayne Co., Kentucky, 7-17-1828 (Bible 1823) eldest only surviving child of four born to George K. and Jennie (MacDonald) Turpin natives of Kentucky. George K. died in Wayne County in 1850. Mother died about 1838. When eighteen years old James K. Turpin went to Evansville, Indiana, and read medicine with Dr. Trafton for two years. He lived in Alabama one year with an uncle. In 1850 he came to Rockport, Indiana, and became a merchant. Helped raise First Co., from Spencer Co., for Civil war

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He served in Company A. 28th Regiment. Engaged in battles of Pine Bluff, Helena and Little Rock. Was discharged in July 1865, wearing sargeant's Chevrons. In 1878 entered Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, Ohio. Graduated in 1880. He was a Republican and a Mason. Married Harriet N. Woodward, native of Cincinnati, Ohio. Children were William K. Turpin and Mary Alice Turpin.

The parents of Harriet N. Woodward were William Woodward and Nancy Miller Woodward b — 11-23-1878 m — 11-5-1807 d — 2-16-1877. The Woodward line came from New Jersey where the founder of the line, Anthony Woodward, a Quaker, came early in the 17th century from England. William Woodward and Nancy Miller Woodward were married in Essex Co., New Jersey.

PERSONAL DISCRIPTION OF HARRIET NEWELL WOODWARD

Stature — 5 feet 5 inches — weight — —
complexion — fair habit —
hair (color) light brown eyes (color) dark
health — good.
education — common school
occupation — housewife, very gifted with the needle
religion — Methodist joined at the age of 18 in Cincinnati, Ohio
removals — Came to Rockport, Ind. in 1845 to visit sister,
Mrs. Caroline Mckee.

ADDITIONAL FACTS

Mr. James Turpin, husband of Harriet Newell Woodward, was the son of George Turpin and Jennie MacDonald. At 18 James read medicine in Evansville Ind. with Dr. Trafton. He lived in Alabama for one year and came to Rockport in the early 40's. He owned a grocery store for several years which he sold to enter the Civil war. He enlisted in Company F. First Indiana Calvary and attained rank of first sargeant. He served from Oct. 8, 1862 to June 22, 1865. He was a graduate of the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati.

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

Stature — about 5 feet 8 inches Weight — Complexion — blond
Hair (color) very light Eyes (color) blue

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Education — common and medical school

Occupation — merchantile contractor & Physician

Politics — Republican

Removals — Ky. to Ind. to Alabama (1yr.) to Indiana where he died in Rockport July 18, 1907.



THE WOODWARDS OF NEW JERSEY

Anthony Woodward, the founder of this branch, was born in Derbyshire, near Ashford-in-the-water, England, in 1657. On the 22nd of the 12th month, 1682, his sister Alice, was married at Ashford Friends' Meeting to Edward Booth. Anthony, with others, signed the certificate. Soon after this, he emigrated to America and settled for a time on Long Island, New York. Anterior to 1686 he arrived at Crosswicks, New Jersey, bringing with him a certificate of removal to the Chesterfield Month Meeting. On the 14th of the 12th month 1686, he married Hannah, daughter of Thomas Foulkes. In 1688, Anthony's father-in-law conveyed to him as a gift two hundred acres of land at or near the village, and it is probable he first settled there, though about that time he bought a tract of three hundred acres between the old York road and Doctor's Creek, and a larger tract also on the north side of the Crosswicks. In 1698, he purchased of William Dockwra the great Dockwra tract, extending from a point on Crosswicks Creek at Fowler's bridge, near Ellisdale, along the old province, Keiths' or County line, to where said line intersects Crosswicks Creek, about half way between New Egypt and Cookstown, a distance of seven miles, being bounded on the west by the province line, and on all other sides by Crosswicks Creek, for the sum of 880 units current silver money. This tract now contains some of the finest farms in the state. He died in 1729, aged seventy two years. His issue were six sons, Thomas, Samuel, William, John, Anthony, and Joseph, and three daughters, Elizabeth, Clemence, and Mary. They all survived him except Mary, who was born in 1688 and died in infancy. For further information of this branch we would refer the reader to one of Anthony's descendants, Major E. Morrison Woodward, Major Second Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves during the late war, who now lives at Ellisdale, Manmouth County, New Jersey, within musket shot of the old homestead of 1686. He published in the Borden town Register of last year a very interesting account of the family, and is now, we believe, engaged in securing

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data for a more extended record, to be published in book form.

WOODWARD GENEALOGY

compiled by
Lewis Woodward M. D.
Printed by Ferris Bros. No. 10 East Third St.
Wilmington, Delaware

Mother's Maiden Name — Nancy Miller Woodward
Born — November 23, 1788 at New Jersey
Brothers 1, James. Sisters 2.
Married November 15, 1807 to W. Woodward
Removals — see Wm. Woodward, her husband
Died — February 16, 1877 in Spencer Co., Indiana
Cause of Death — Dysentery
Place of Internment — Pleasant Valley
Autograph — Nancy Woodward

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

Weight - 165 pounds Complexion - light
Hair — light Eyes — dark
A good woman and a member of the Presbyterian Church
Father's Name — William Woodward
Mother's Maiden Name — Comton
Born — Sept. 7, 1782, at New Jersey
Brothers 2, John and More, Sisters 1, Hanna
Married November, 1807, to Nancy Miller of New Jersey by Henry
Cook in New Brunswick
Removals — moved from N. Brunswick to Pittsburg 1811, from thence
to Cincinnati, Ohio, 1813.
Died — Oct. 2, 1839 at Elmhurst, Illinois
Cause of death — Malaria Fever
Place of internment — Elmhurst, Illinois
Autograph — William Woodward

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

Height 5ft 11 inches Heavy and Square Built Florid Complexion

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Dark Hair Dark Eyes

Natural mechanical genius, a carpenter by occupation. Worked in the Armory at Pittsburg in 1812 during the War with Great Britain Moved from thence to Cincinnati 1813 from thence to Lebanon, Co. seat of Wassen Co. Ohio, and there established in the plane making business for a number of years, the first manufactory of the kind west of the Allegheny mountains.

Family History in possession of Jane Stoddard (Jane Lofeman)

Grand daughter of

Eliza Jane Woodward Stites

Sister of Harriett Woodward^d Turpin



A GLIMPSE OF BY-GONE DAYS

(The writer of the letter was a brother of Nancy Miller Woodward, mother of Harriett Woodward Turpin, who was the mother of Mary Alice Turpin Brant. James Miller, writer, was a Merchant of Buffalo, New York. The woman so much praised was the second wife of John Woodward, oldest son of Nancy Miller Woodward and William Woodward. Grace Atwood Lindsey of Rockport, Indiana, is the great grand daughter of the women praised)

Buffalo March 10th 1858

Mr. James Turpin

Dear Sir:

Your very agreeable letter of the 27 th of Feb. came duly to hand, we ware glad to learn that all our folks ware well and comfortable- and feel pleasure to reply and inform you and through you all my acquaintance and relatives in your vicinity that we all in general way enjoy the same blessing. However I might mention that our daughter Julia F. Snow was confined about a week ago with a son, a fine plump 9lb boy and she is getting along "as well as could be expected".

Our winter has been mild until the coming in of March which has so far been pretty cold—the mild winter has been very favorable to poor people they have required much less clothing and fuel - but although the winter has been soft the times have been hard enough on the pocket - a great many out of employ and business very dull many of our business men failed and crippled others who ware connected with them in various ways. I shall loose some though not so as to injure me very materialy.

In regard to what you observe about money I am under the necessity of saying that this like other places west of New York experiences

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a great want of capital - we are borrowers in stead of lenders and what little money thare is used here is turned to the very best advantage to nett the greatest amount of profit—In regard to myself I have my property vested in real estate and buildings and use the rents and income to live on - so that for many years I have not been in the habit of handling much surplus money what little I have standing a part is tied up in jepardy a part will be slow and part vested in my business which is collecting tax scrip - which is something in this wise - Taxes that are not promptly paid are returned and sold by the city for a term of years say for fifty or one hundred or more years after which time the owner or mortgagee has time for redemption by paying the tax expences and fifteen percent per ann. interest. I collect many of this for the city (which the City bid in) and for many others - on which I have the fees for notice sc and as I have money to spare purchase the scrip after the sale on which gives me including my fees for notice about eighteen percent and some of these run two three or four years before they are paid as I am somewhat indulgent not wishing to take any advantage of the inability of others - and as other taxes accrue on the same property I am compelled to pay or bid them in to protect those I have which in some cases amount considerable - for instance the other day I had to pay out about four hundred dollars to protect about fifty dollars I had and it unexpected and placed me on the borrowing list until I collect.

Mr. Manchester is engaged in the banking and brokerage business not in loaning money but buying and negotiating Bonds and Mortgage as agent for others - they generally pass for from 15 to 25 percent discount according to the time they have to run which will nett the holdee or person purchasing about fifteen percent per ann. and are generly safe and what I say of him may be said all our monied men thus you will redily percure that is dificult to obtain money at legal notes of interest -Capitalist are generally adverse to loaning money at a distance it is hard for them to believe that property at a distance is as valuble as that near home "Evry Crow thinks her own young ons white" -mentioning tax sales reminds me of what I was informed by Sister when at your place - that your tather Woodward when he died left lands in Indiana and that it had been sold some years ago for taxes and the heirs had given it up as lost. It was my opinion at the time the heirs being under age might redeem when they came of age - for such are the laws of this State. After leaving your place returning home I formed a very brief travling

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acquaintance with gentleman who said he was a lawyer and also kept a land office who seemed to be well posted up in such matters he said the heirs had a right according the laws to tender the amount of the Tax Interest and expenses and obtain the land - I stated the case fairly to him - wheather the land is worth the amount that accumulated for so many years you can determine much better than me I intended to write about it immediatly on my return about it and perhaps I have done so - if so I have forgot and this must pass for surplussage.

Remember me afectionatly to Sister - your wife and the little ones and Mr.. Stites and family and John M. Woodward and family and especialy John M. Wife I took a liking to her - her free energy, her of handed frankness and afability. Kind and generous free and frank and all and without vanity or astentation - these are qualities which I admire and more especialy in women whose lot is cast in a new country whare there are all the obstacles and difficulties to contend with are incident to such a situation - yes give her my best respect for she is a woman after my own hart.

I almost fear I have said too much in the last paragraph others of my relatives may fee as thaugh I had over looked thair many good qualities and mad an invidious distinction but I can assure them most honestly and sincerly that that is not the case for I was very favorly impressed with them all and can give them a warm place in my hart but some how wheather it was owing to qualities possed by her or my own peculiar state or costruction of mind at the time certain I am she made the most forcible impression. Perhaps it was owing to the little experience I have had on a new farm and no other can so fully apreciate those inestimable qualities in a femal companion that has a mind to plan strength to execute a spirit of endurance of unavoidable difficulties and with a cheerfulness that encourages and arouses the flagging energies of her companion when bordering on dispondency - The man who has the good fortune to posses such a companion should esteem her more precious than the golden wedge of Opir.

Tell little Willie your son that he must write uncle a letter - I think he can do so as he has been to scool some time - and tell me all about his little sister and the big cat fish in the Ohio and wheather you make garden on your lot that is a beautiful situation I hope you will some day have a house on it - I have got my barlow knife yet and I guess that is more than he can say. When boys cease to loose knives they cease to be boys - but I think Willie and his little sister

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are good children - I hope they will obey thar father and mother
attend school learn and in evry way merrit the esteem all good people

And that God may bless and preserve you all is the ardent and
sincere wish of

James Miller



INEZ BRANT b-9 -12-1887 Rockport, Indiana
 m-1 -23-1918 Los Angeles, California
 d

DR. JAMES MARION SMITH (I)
 b-12-31-1857 Illinois
 d-1 -16-1942 Pocatello, Idaho

CHARLES FOSTER LEONARD
 b-9 -10-1890 Fostoria, Ohio
 m-9-28-1929 Monrovia, California
 d-11-12-1944 Monrovia, California

Inez Brant, the first child born to James Daniel Brant and Mary Alice Turpin was born in Rockport, Indiana, on September 12, 1887, in the home of her maternal grandparents. She was born in the two story white frame house which stands next to the Methodist Church on fifth Strret. Her grandfather, Dr. Jamer K. Turpin presided at her birth and gave her the name of Inez because of her very dark brown eyes. She attended one of the now famous Little Red Brick Schools. The pot bellied stove was there and the tin dipper in the bucket of water on the stand in the back of the room. There was also a bookcase with three shelves of books in that room. The three remembered are Fox's Book of Martyrs, a book on Greek Mythology and The Hoosier Schoolmaster. At that time the family lived on a farm adjoining the school grounds. Inez Brant completed her formal education in the public schools of Rockport and Bloomington, Indiana. and the State University located at Bloomington, Indiana. She came to Los Angeles, California, with her parents in July, 1917. They came to California, by way of West Frankfort, Illinois, where they visited the son and brother, Delbert, and wife Emma. They had been married on Thanksgiving Day 1916.

On January 23, 1918, Inez Brant and Dr. James Marion Smith were married. Dr. Smith was born in Carlinville, Illinois, on December 31, 1857. He was a graduate of Rush Medical School, Chicago, Illinois, and of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. His parents

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were Alfred C. and Martha Underwood Smith. The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. Charles Edward Locke, who later became Bishop Locke, in the parlor of the First Methodist Church of Los Angeles, California. They separated less than six months after the marriage and were divorced the next year. A daughter, Mary Del Smith, was born in Monrovia on December 8, 1918.

In 1944 it was learned that Dr. Smith had died in Pocatello, Idaho, on January 16, 1942. In September, 1945, his daughter, Mary Del Smith, went to Pocatello to investigate the legal aspects of the estate. He had married again on November 5, 1919. He left a good sized estate but neither his former wife, Inez, nor his daughter Mary Del, received any part of it. Inez Brant Smith remained a widow for eleven years. She served as Noble Grand of Monrovia Rebekah Lodge No. 51. She was president of Monrovia, Duarte, Arcadia Council of Parents and Teachers for the years 1928 and '29 and 1929 and '30. The Council contained ten Associations. She was Regent of Encinitas Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution 1933 and 1934. She served the Chapter as Registrar for twelve years. She became a member of Palos Verdes Court 69, Order of Amaranth, Long Beach, in February 1951, with grandfather Jacob Brant III as her sponsor. She was Enrolling Secretary of the First Methodist Church of Monrovia and President of the P.T.A. Council when she met Charles Foster Leonard, who was also a Methodist. They were married in the patio of the Leonard home, 528 West Duarte Road in Monrovia, on September 28, 1929. Charles had a family of three girls and two boys. His wife had died five years before in Fostoria, Ohio. He was born September 10, 1890, on a farm near Fostoria. He attended a German Lutheran College at Tiffin, Ohio. He was a descendant of Captain Ewing of the American Revolution who was born in Londonderry, Ireland.

The two sons, Kenneth and Joseph and all four of the sons-in-law were in World War II and were away when Charles Leonard was stricken with a profuse cerebral hemorrhage at the dinner table on the evening of November 12, 1944. He lived until seven thirty the next morning, November 12, 1944. The remains were cremated and the ashes sent back to Fostoria, Ohio, where they rest in the Leonard Family Lot. For several years Inez Leonard engaged in nursing, and at present is the Night Nurse at Emerald Lodge, a small Tuberculosis Sanitarium in Duarte.

Later — Inez Leonard is now engaged in Private Duty Nursing and this story is about to be ended on June 30, 1953. She is also living in the city of Compton, California. She became an Organ-

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izing Member of the Hutchins-Grayson Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter of Compton in 1951. Her daughter Mary Del also joined the Compton Chapter.



JAMES DELBERT BRANT

b — 6-26-1889 Rockport, Indiana

m — 11-30-1916

d

MARY EMMA RUSSELL

b — 9-18-1899 West Frankfort, Illinois

d

James Delbert Brant, second child and only son of James Daniel Brant and Mary Alice Turpin was born on the 26th day of June 1889 in Rockport, Indiana,. He was educated in the Little Red School house adjacent to their farm, the public schools of Rockport and Bloomington High School from which he graduated in 1908. He attended Indiana U. at Bloomington, taught school for one year and Then worked for the Chicago, Evansville and Indianapolis Railroad. Because a next door neighbor of the Brant family, Duncan Medill, was interested in both the Clinton and West Frankfort Coal Fields, James Delbert Brant went to West Frankfort, Illinois, to work for Old Ben Coal Company as a clerk. After thirty years he is still with Old Ben Coal Company. He has served them both in West Virginia and Ill.. He is a Republican, a member of the First Baptist Church of West Frankfort, Illinois, and a member of the Order Of Elks.

Emma received her education in the grade and high school of West Frankfort. She is the daughter of Ina Mary Murphy Russell born February the fourth 1878 in Franklin County, Illinois and Carroll Franklin Russell b August 15, 1869 in Murphysboro, Kentucky. He died on November 11, 1921 in West Frankfort, Illinois.



MARY DEL AUTEN

b — 12-8-1918

daughter of Dr. James Marion Smith & Inez Brant

Mary Del Smith, daughter of Dr. James Marion Smith and Inez Brant, was born in the Monrovia Hospital just before noon on Sunday

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December 8, 1918. She is a graduate of Monrovia Arcadia Duarte High School where she was prominent in Music and Athletics. She belonged to both grade and high school orchestras and Circle M. in high school. She attended Citrus Junior College and had one year of Business College in Pasadena. She began taking violin lessons at the age of six and entered the San Gabriel Symphony Orchestra when eleven. This Orchestra was under the direction of Harold Scott. She played in the Orchestra until she married. She is a member of Encinitas Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution. She worked for five years in the Mayfair Garment Factory as secretary and model. She married Lt. Richard Lambert Auten in Douglas, Arizona, on January 4, 1944.

The marriage of Mary Del Auten and Richard Lambert ended in the Divorce Court. On June twenty-third 1951 she married Arthur Edward Gilbert.



ARTHUR EDWARD GILBERT

Arthur Edward Gilbert was born 3-30-1923 in the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, California. He is the only child of Arthur Peter Gilbert b 11-10-1880 in Douglas, Massachusetts and Beatrice Johnson b — 5-30-1891 in Bodboda, Sweden. She came to New York City in 1910, married 11-1-1920. The Gilberts came to Los Angeles on their Honeymoon and never returned to New York. The Father died suddenly on 2-27-1940 in South Gate. He was a member of a New York Masonic Lodge, and was buried with Masonic honors. Edward graduated from the South Gate High School in 1941. After graduation he worked for a short time for the Security National Bank and then in April 1941 began his career with the Telephone Company. He enlisted October 26, 1942 and was called in February 1945. He served in the South Pacific, flying on C46 and C47 planes as Radio Operator Mechanic in the Troop Carrier Command. He was discharged in January 1946 and returned to the Telephone Company. He joined the California Air National Guard on April 6, 1950. He was called to active duty May 1, 1951 in the United States Air Force. He with the entire unit was sent to Tinker Field in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma where the Unit received on the job training in Mathematics, Electronics, and Radar.

On June the twenty-third 1951 Edward Gilbert was married in Tulsa, Oklahoma to his California fiance who had come by plane from Compton, California. The wedding took place in Tulsa since

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Ed's best Friend had relatives in Tulsa. Robert Cheney was best man and his wife Hetta was Matron of Honor. Robert's Baker Uncle made the wedding cake, and another Uncle and wife gave a Reception. The First Baptist Church of Tulsa served as a setting for the ceremony. The Pastor of the church officiated. Pictures were made of the wedding. After spending the summer in Oklahoma City the Gilberts returned to California the first week in November 1951 by auto. Ed left Camp Stoneman on December 8, 1951 for Korea by way of Japan. He was at that time an Installation Cableman. After one month he was made Wire Maintenance Supervisor. He arrived back in San Francisco on September 20, 1952 by plane. His rank was S. Sgt., United States Air Force, Serial Number A.F. 19162573.

Military Decorations and Ribbons of A. E. Gilbert S.Sgt. U.S.A.F.

Air Crew Wings

Presidential Unit Citation

Good Conduct Medal

Asiatic Pacific Ribbon — — two battle stars

Victory Medal

Philipine Operation Ribbon — — two battle stars

Korean Service Medal — — two battle stars

Japanese Occupation Ribbon

American Defense Ribbon

The Gilberts moved into their new home on Pescadero in South Gate, California on June 20, 1953. Both are employed by the Telephone Company.



RECORD OF ORLANDO BRANT

Son of

Jacob Brant III & Minerva Overlin

Orlando Brant	b	3-24-1857	Spencer Co. Indiana
	d	11-14-1912	Spencer Co. Indiana
	m	10-29-1884	

Lizzie Maria Wakelin	b	12-25-1859
	d	6-18-1935

Children

Infant son	b	10-18-1885	d	11-1885
Myrtle Brant	b	3-16-1887	d	
	m	7-29-1913		
Earl Salyers	b	5-18-1895		

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Grace Brant b 9- 3-1892 d
 m 11-19-1912
 Roscoe Fisher b 7-10-1889
 Warren Brant b 3-23-1897 d 6-18-1897
 Clarence Brant b 3- 3-1900 d 7- 5-1900

Children Of

Grace Brant & Roscoe Fisher

Helen Elizabeth Fisher b 9-17-1914
 m 1-14-1933
 d 3-24-1935 (in an auto accident)
 Clyde Fulkerson b
 divorced 3- 9-1935
 Virgil Paul Fisher b 11- 9-1916
 d
 m 1-11-1941
 Mabel Stokeley b 2-8
 Virginia Ruth Fisher b 12-14-1919
 d
 m 6-14-1936 Franklin, Ky.
 Harold Brown b 8-18-1917
 Anna Grace Fisher b 2- 8-1924
 d
 m 9-19-1942
 Ralph Howerton b 1-17-1918
 Martha Rae Fisher b 6-24-1930
 m
 d

Grand Children Of

Grace Brant & Roscoe Fisher

To Virgil Paul Fisher & Mabel Stokeley

Elizabeth Ann b 5-19-1942 Lansing , Michigan
 Sue Allen b 8-11-1945
 Edward Earl b 8- 6-1949
 Eva Marie b

To Harold Brown & Virginia Ruth Fisher

Beverly Ruth b 12-21-1939 Lansing, Michigan
 Candance Lee b 10- 7-1946 Beaumont, Texas

To Ralph O. Howerton & Anna Grace Fisher

Ruth Carole b 5-18-1949 Washington, D. C.

To Martha Rae Fisher & Thomas Kilbreth Armstrong

Stephen Gregory Armstrong b 2-2-1951

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A GENEALOGY OF ORLANDO BRANT

Orlando Brant

wed

Lizzie Maria Wakelin

who bore to him:

Joseph E. Brant

who died in infancy

Myrtle J. Brant

wed

Earl I. Salyers

Warren E. Brant

who died in infancy

Clarence E. Brant

who died in infancy

Grace Belle Brant

wed

Roscoe Franklin Fisher

and bore to him:

Helen Elizabeth Fisher

wed

Clyde Fulkerson

Virgil Paul Fisher

wed

Mabel Stokeley

who bore to him:

Elizabeth Ann Fisher

Sue Ellen Fisher

Edward Earl Fisher

Eva Marie Fisher

Virginia Ruth Fisher

wed

Harold Edward Brown

and bore to him:

Beverly Ruth Brown

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Candace Lee Brown

.....
Anne Grace Fisher

wed

Ralph Ora Howerton

and bore to him:

Ruth Carole Howerton

.....
Martha Rae Fisher

wed

Thomas Kilbreth Armstrong

and bore to him:

Stephen Gregory Armstrong



ORLANDO BRANT 1857 — 1912

Orlando Brant, second son of Jacob Brant III and Minerva Overlin, was born March 24, 1857, on a farm in Indiana. He was a man any child might be proud to call father. Honest, truthful and kind, he was a good husband, a good father and a good neighbor. He was deeply religious, temperate and thoroughly clean.

He married Lizzie Maria Wakelin, a Methodist preacher's daughter October 29, 1884.

He died at the age of fifty five, on November 14, 1912, of sugar diabetes. His wife survived him 23 years. She died June 8, 1935. They are buried in Asbury Cemetery, near Chandler, Indiana.

To Orlando and Lizzie Brant were born five children, three sons and two daughters. The sons died in infancy.

Joseph E. Brant was born October 1885 and lived about six weeks.

Myrtle E. Brant was born March 16, 1887.

Grace Belle Brant was born September 3, 1892.

Warren E. Brant was born March 23, 1897 and died June 18, 1897.

Clarence E. Brant was born March 3, 1900 and died July 5, 1900.



MYRTLE BRANT SALYERS 1887 — 19

Myrtle Brant, the second child of Lizzie and Orlando Brant, was born March 16, 1887. She was married to Earl Salyers on July 29,

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1913. He was employed as a machinist at the C.H. & D. Railroad shops in Indianapolis. At this writing, is still employed by the same company, although they have changed the company name to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroads.

Myrtle and Earl made their home in Indianapolis until 1930, with the exception of two years on a farm near Holton, Indiana, and one year at Montezuma, Indiana. They moved to their present home in December 1930. It is a farm, located in the N.W. corner of Shelby County, eight miles from the City limits of Indianapolis.

Earl is a Mason. Myrtle belongs to the Order of the Eastern Star. Both are well loved members of the New Bethel Baptist Church.

There were no children born to this union.



GRACE BELLE BRANT FISHER 1892 — 19—

Grace Belle Brant, the third child of Lizzie and Orlando, was born September 3, 1892, on the farm in Warrick County, Campbell Township in Southern Indiana. When she was six months old, her parents bought a small farm of forty eight acres in Boon Township, about four miles from the place of her birth, seven miles from Boonville, and three miles from Chandler and Millersburg, respectively. Here the parents lived out the remainder of their lives. The early teachings and examples of her parents, the clean farm life she lived, and her own excellent character have served to make her a personality of rare beauty. She is a wonderful Christian, and a person of whom her children speak with justifiable pride.

At the early age of fourteen, her father, Orlando's failing health made it necessary for Grace to go to work to help support the family. For two years she worked in the office of the Boonville Standard setting type, feeding presses and collecting. She then worked nine months as an attendant at the Central Indiana Hospital for the insane. The work was interesting, but too confining. She transferred to the Southern Indiana Hospital for the Insane in Evansville, Indiana. There she met Roscoe Fisher, a young man from Millersburg, Indiana, who had lived within three miles of her all her life, but whom she had never chanced to meet.

Grace and Roscoe were married November 19, 1912, at the Methodist Parsonage in Chandler Indiana, the Rev. William Simmons officiating. Her father had died only a few days before, but the plans had all been made, and were not changed.

Grace and Roscoe spent most of their lives on the 48 acre farm

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which had belonged to her parents. They cared for her mother until her death.

Roscoe Franklin Fisher was born July 10, 1889, in Lane Township Warrick County Indiana. For seven years after their marriage he worked in a coal mine. After this, he was manager of a grocery store in Chandler, Indiana, for twelve years. His health faied gradually. In 1938 he was operated on for a brain tumor. Recovery was slow, but in 1943 the family moved to Norfolk Virginia, where Roscoe worked at the Aviation Supply Annex, Naval Operating Base. At the war's end, they returned to Millersburg, Indiana where they still live at this writing.

Five children were born to Grace and Roscoe.

Helen Elizabeth Fisher was born September 17, 1914, and died March 24, 1935. (of an automobile accident.)

Virgil Paul Fisher was born November 9, 1916.

Virginia Ruth Fisher was born December 14, 1919.

Anna Grace Fisher was born February 8, 1924

Martha Rae Fisher was born June 24, 1930.



HELEN ELIZABETH FISHER FULKERSON 1914 — 1935

Helen Elizabeth Fisher, first born of Roscoe and Grace Fisher was born on the farm September 17, 1914. She attended Millersburg Grade and High School graduating at the age of 16. She attended Lockyear's Business College in Evansville, Indiana. She was a fine musician, playing the piano for both the high school and church orchestras.

On January 14, 1933, she married Clyde Fulkerson of Chandler Indiana. On March 9, 1935, she obtained a divorce. She met death in an automobile accident March 24 1935.



VIRGIL PAUL FISHER 1916 — 19—

Virgil Paul Fisher was the second child of Roscoe and Grace Fisher. He was born on the family farm, November 9, 1916. He played the trombone in both the school and church orchestras. Like Helen, he graduated from Millersburg High School.

He was in the navy the last four months of the war, from June 30 1945, to October 14, 1945. He was discharged immediately at the wars end, due to his being at that time the father of four girls.

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"Bud" as he is affectionately known to his friends and relatives married Mabel Mae Mckelby Stokeley on January 11, 1941. The ceremony was held in the Highland M. E. Church, Memphis, Tenn. Mabel has two daughters by a former marriage, Dixie Lee born May 15, 1932, and Janis Luella, born August 24 1935.

On May 19, 1942 their union was blessed with the birth of a baby daughter, Elizabeth Ann, born at the Edward Sparrow Hospital, in Lansing Michigan. Another daughter, Sue Ellen, was born August 11, 1945, and on August 6, 1949, they became the proud parents of a son Edward Earl.

Virgil and Mabel, with their family, make their home in Haslett, Michigan, on the banks of lovely Lake Lansing.

Virgil belongs to the F. & A. Masons the American Legion, Post 259, Dept. of Michigan, Bay City Consistory A.A.S.R., Order of Eastern Star, No. 257 and the Asbestos Workers Local Union No. 47 of Lansing, Michigan. Mabel is also a member of the Order of Eastern Star No. 257



VIRGINIA RUTH FISHER BROWN 1919 — 19—

Virginia Ruth Fisher, third child of Roscoe and Grace, was born December 14, 1919, in Chandler, Indiana. She was educated in Millersburg Grade and High School, of which she is an alumnus.

At the age of nine years she began playing the violin in the Church and school orchestras. She also plays the piano. She was cheer leader in High School, and took part in the plays and extra curricular activities of the school. She belonged to the 4-H club for six years two years of which she was Junior Leader. She sang in the choir of the Millersburg Methodist Church. She is a member of the Bright Star Chapter No. 532, Order of the Eastern Star of Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Virginia married Harold Edward Brown, on June 14, 1936 in Franklin, Kentucky. He is the son of Daisy Fern Barrett Brown and William Edward Brown. Harold was born in Connorsville, Indiana Fayette County, on August 18, 1917. He was educated at Evansville's Vogel School, Bosse High, in Evansville, and Millersburg High in Millersburg, Indiana. He took a keen interest in athletics. He is a member and Master Mechanic of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulation and Asbestos Workers. He is a member of the Lessing Blue Lodge No. 464 Free and Accepted Masons in

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Evansville, Indiana, and of the Evansville Consistory of the Scottish Rite, also a Noble of Hadi Tempe Shrine of Evansville.

Their first child, Beverly Ruth Brown, was born December 21, 1939, at the Edward Sparrow Hospital in Lansing, Michigan.

Their second child, Candace Lee Brown, was born in Beaumont, Texas, October 7, 1946.

At present, January 1953, the Brown family are at 27 E. Columbia Avenue, Evansville, Indiana.



ANNA GRACE FISHER HOWERTON 1924 — 19—

Anna Grace Fisher, fourth child of Roscoe and Grace Fisher, was born on the family farm February 8, 1924. She was educated in the Millersburg Grade and High Schools, and in Evansville's Bosse High. After her graduation from High School in 1942, she attended the Circle Calculating Machine School in Indianapolis, Indiana. For one semester in 1949 she attended Maryland University, College Park, Maryland.

On September 19, 1942, in Millersburg Methodist Church, she became the wife of Ralph Ora Howerton. Ralph is the son of Etta Josephine Sprinkle Howerton (a lineal descendent of John and Priscilla Alden) and Edgar Green Howerton. He was born January 17, 1918, in Boonville, Indiana. He was educated in Grey Grade and Boonville High Schools. He attended Lockyears Business College and Evansville Mechanical Arts School each for one semester. In 1941 he accepted a position with the U. S. Department of Commerce Weather Bureau. In August 1942, he volunteered for service with the U.S. Naval Reserve. He took his initial training in Norfolk, Virginia, and in February 1943, was assigned to the U.S.S. Iowa, one of the three largest battle ships afloat. He served in both the Atlantic and Pacific war zones, and wears six battle stars on his ribbon. In the fall of 1943, the men of the Iowa felt themselves honored, for they found that their ship had been chosen to carry the President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, to the now famous Teheran Conference.

Ralph was discharged from the Navy in October, 1945. After a vacation trip to Niagra Falls, Ralph and Anna Grace returned to Washington, D. C., where Ralph returned to his duties as Weather Data Plotter for the Weather Bureau. Anna Grace took a position with the U.S. Treasury Department. Later, Ralph transferred to the Veteran's Administration and Anna Grace to the Personnel Office of the National Housing Agency, Office of the Administrator. They

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purchased a home in College Park, Maryland. In 1948 they found it to their advantage to transfer to the Department of Agriculture Experimental Farms in Beltsville, Maryland. In January 1949, Anna Grace resigned without prejudice. Ralph is still employed in the Bureau of Dairy Industry, Office of the Chief, at this writing.

Their first child, Ruth Carole, was born May 18, 1949, in George Washington University Hospital, Washington, D. C.

Both Ralph and Anna are members of the Berwyn Baptist Church. Until January, 1950, Anna Grace was a member of the Encinitas Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in Monrovia, Calif.

The Howerton family are now living at 1111 Pennsylvania Avenue in East St. Louis, Illinois.



MARTHA RAE FISHER ARMSTRONG

1930 — 19

Martha Rae, the fifth child of Roscoe and Grace Fisher, was born on the family farm June 24, 1930. She attended school in Millersburg Grade School, Broad Creek High School, in Norfolk, Virginia, and Millersburg High School, Chandler, Indiana, where she graduated in 1947. She was awarded a scholarship to Purdue University, Lafayette, Indian, where she completed two years of college, taking the teaching option in the School of Home Economics.

On September 3, 1949, in Millersburg Methodist Church she became the bride of Thomas Kilbreth Armstrong in a beautiful formal ceremony. "Tom" is the youngest son of Herbert Haskell Armstrong and Kate Bernice Gilham Armstrong of Godfry, Illinois (now Santa Rosa, Texas).

Tom is a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity at Purdue University. He belongs to the Purdue University Band, military and symphonic divisions and in his final year was Captain and Executive Officer. During his Junior year he pledged Scabbard and Blade National Military Honary. He received his degree in the Electronics division of the School of Electrical Engineering (B.S.E.E.) on January 28, 1951. He is a member of the Institute of Radio Engineering and, being an avid and capable rifleman, the National Rifle Association. He is also quite interested in radio and has his own amateur station.

Upon graduation from Purdue, Tom accepted a position as Electronic Engineer at the U. S. Naval Ordnance Test Station at China Lake, California. He is working there at this time and the family lives

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in a house trailer on the station.

Armstrong was born in Alton, Illinois. He was educated at Godfrey Grade School and Alton High School. He attended Purdue from July 1945 to March 1946 then joined the army and spent the next one and a half years (April 1946 to August 1947) in Korea. He was discharged in August and returned to Purdue in September.

After her marriage, Martha worked as a secretary at Purdue University in the Mechanical Engineering Department. She worked here until January 12, 1951. On February 2, 1951, their first child, Stephon Gregory, was born at Home Hospital in Lafayette, Indiana.

Martha was an honor student all through high school, and was active in plays and the high school newspaper. She plays the piano. She was also active in the Youth Fellowship of the Millersburg Church. In College she was a member of the Y.W.C.A. the Virginia C. Meredith Club and the Privateers, The Women's Residence Halls Choir and Bowling Team.



ABOUT A WEDDING

(This is part of a letter written to Ruth Brant Thomas of Arcadia California, by Anne Grace Fisher Howerton about her sister's wedding. Ann is the grand-daughter of Orlando Brant, her mother, Grace Brant Fisher. The wedding took place in the Methodist Church of Millersburg, Indiana.)

4802 Apache Street

College Park, Maryland

September 18, 1949

If no one else has told you about the wedding, and I suppose they all have, I must. Oh, well, to start at the beginning, we got away from here about 6 p.m. Friday, the 26th of August, drove till midnight, and hauled off to the side of the road to sleep til morning. Ralph took the back seat, I took the front seat and Ruth in her basket got the floor. About 2 a.m. Ralph began to wriggle and twist and shortly I began to do likewise. Pretty rough sleeping, finally I raised and looked at the road. All dark and quiet. No cars. You know I just couldn't bear to see all that empty highway go to waste, so we started driving again, and didn't stop until we got home. Oh, of course we had to stop along the road to fix the baby's formula now and then, but they weren't long stops. We slept at Ralph's sister, Ruth's place, that night and went over to Millersburg to S.S. the next morning. We got there a little late and the baby was asleep

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so we went carrying her up the Church steps in her basket. Mom came dashing out to meet us, grabbed that basket, and started walking up one aisle and down the next, right in the middle of class, showing off her grand daughter. I said, goodnight, you'd think this was her first! Well, we stayed out at Millersburg all that first week and worked like Turks. Martha made my dress, I washed and scrubbed and swept and cooked and did dishes, Ralph and Mom painted half the inside of the school house, our front porch and all the porch furniture. We got paper and papered the front room on Thursday before the wedding on Saturday!

Friday we scrubbed and waxed all the floors and borrowed furniture from all the neighbors, and Saturday— well I picked Martha up at 10 a.m., having already done a baby wash and cleaned my room. We dashed down to Aunt Lily's (Lily Jarret, Grandma Miller's sister) to get Clematis for the alter, and found Bud and Janice already there, so we brought them out home with us. You'd never believe Janice is the same little girl you coaxed to take pills about seven years ago, oh, more than that, for we've been married that long (thanks for the anniversary card). She sure is a pretty girl, tho. Anyhow, we dashed madly back home and found Tom already there. Also Virginia and her youngsters. I hadn't seen them before, as they had the mumps. That Beverly is a mighty pretty child. Candy is cute as a button and livlier than Beverley, but for sheer beauty B, had her beat. We, (Ginia and I) had ordered a birthday cake and we got ice cream and had a birthday surprise for mother. When the kids went to Boonville for their licence, and we washed the dishes and reduced the table to it's proper size, picked flowers and arranged them all over the house and ran to rehearsal. The minister made me go back and come down the aisle again. Said I wasn't going to a fire. He didn't know I'd been going like that all day, and couldn't get stopped! Ha! Immediately after rehearsal Martha and I started decorating the church. She was to have the alter railing massed with clematis and hedge, with two bouquets of white glads on either side of the alter. Well, I went down to the house to get them, and the florist had sent out two dozen green stems! In the first place the kids went in to pick them up when they got their licence, and they had orange ones. Martha threw a fit and they said they'd go to Evansville and get some white ones. They assured mom that if she'd put the things in warm water they'd be open by 7:30. We threw them away the next Saturday and they hadn't near all opened then! That wasn't bad enough. When they came back with the wedding flowers, the mother's corsages of pale pink asters

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had brown leaves all through them, half the buttoniers (spell?) were a sickly pink, and all asters instead of carnations, and the brides bouquet! Martha ordered a colonial bouquet of white roses. They had made her a muff of the brightest red roses you ever laid eyes on. It looked like something you'd hang on a horse's neck after a race. I was just sick. Poor Marty and her white wedding—and red roses. It was six o'clock then, but I got in our car and chased that buzzard back to Boonville, and of all the run-arounds, they gave it to me. No one was in charge, no one was responsible for anything, no one knew anything, no one could do anything. Finally I went to their refrigerator case and got out their vase of white asters (the only white flowers in the place) and began making a colonial bouquet of white asters. When they saw I was going to have white flowers whether or no, one of the boys came in, and showed me how to wire fern and helped tape. One of the Boonville teachers whom I knew vaguely came in and I pressed him and his wife into service. When I left that place it was nearly time for the wedding, and I was covered 3 inches deep with yellow dust. As Ralph said, I was starting out to look for you, but I saw a car swoop down the hill, jam on its brakes for the curve, fold up its wings, and skid past the church. I said, "Here she comes." Virginia met me at the door, poured 2 aspirin down my neck (I've not yet figured out why, I was perfectly calm!) and had me dressed, brushed, and too much make up on me in ten minutes. The wedding went on. Later I learned that the best man was almost as late as I, so I wasn't such a criminal. The ceremony was a Congregational one, and I had never heard one like it. I think it was the most beautiful ceremony I ever heard (Babe Ruth is sitting on my lap watching these keys click, completely entranced!)

After the wedding, we went back to the house, and I found that the punch which we were starting to make when the flowers came had never been finished, so I dodged the receiving line to finish the job, then Gail came and I turned it over to her, betwixt and between, we never any of us put any sugar in it. It was pretty potent! Well everyone says it was a lovely wedding. Have drawn sketches of our dresses on a separate sheet. The men, all but Dad wore dinner jackets.

Anne Grace Fisher Howerton



RECORD OF HENRY EDWARD BRANDT
son of

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Jacob Brant III & Minerva Overlin

Henry Edward Brandt	b	7- 1-1860	Spencer Co. Indiana
	d	8- 1-1923	Wyoming
	m	6-12-1895	Spencer Co. Indiana
Alivira Tennessee Hullett	b	4-19-1876	Tennessee
	d		

Children of Henry Edward Brandt & Alvira Tennessee Hullett

Merville Edward Brandt	b	3-17-1896	
	d	8-28-1918	Killed in action in France during World War I
			buried in Laramie, Wyoming
Sarah Ruth Brandt	b	10-26-1899	Wyoming
	d		
	m	7-23-1921	Wyoming
Fred Barnes	b		d

Child of Sarah Ruth Barnes & Fred Barnes

Marilyn Ruth	b	1- 8-1937
	d	



HENRY EDWARD BRANDT

son of

Jacob Brant III &
Minerva Overlin

b-7-1-1860

d-8-29-1923

m-6-12-1895

Alvira Tennessee Hullett was the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Driver Hullett, natives of Tennessee. Alvira was born in Kentucky and was about twelve years old when the family moved to Indiana. She was married to Henry Edward Brandt, who was a native of Indiana, and who belonged to a pioneer family, on the day of her graduation from High School. She was eighteen years old. She had known Edward Brandt a number of years and he was much her

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senior in years. They went to Wyoming to live and their two children were born in Laramie, Wyoming. Merville Edward was born February 17, 1896, and Sarah Ruth on October 26, 1898. When Sarah Ruth was eight years old Edward and Alvira separated and were divorced. They were living on a homestead at the time, sixty-five miles from Casper across Big Wind River. "Aunt Tennie" as she was known to the family became very ill of ulcers of the stomach and was in bed for nine months. She and the children went to the home of a sister in Laramie for her convalescence and never returned to the ranch. She raised the children alone and did all kinds of work to provide for them. Merville gave his life for his country on the 28th day of September 1918. He lies buried in the cemetery in Laramie by the side of his Aunt, Lulu Addie Brant Frye Patton and his mother.

Sarah Ruth Brandt married Fred Barnes on July 23, 1921. Fred Barnes is a Union Pacific Railroad man. Ruth graduated from high school and worked in the telephone business for fifteen years. They have one daughter, Marilyn, born January 8, 1937. They have a very nice home in the City of Laramie and all lived together until Ruth's mother passed away on April 23, 1947 after an illness of a few days. Fred Barnes is a member of the Masonic Lodge and Ruth is a member of the Order of Eastern Star. She is also a member of the Laramie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Laramie is located in a valley surrounded by mountains. Some of the mountains have caps of snow the year around. The winters are long and quite cold. There are many winter sports. The summers are never hot. The State University is in Laramie.

Henry Edward Brandt was killed in an automobile accident on August 29, 1923. His car turned over and broke his neck. He is buried in Landor, Wyoming. The accident occurred while Brandt was in the employment of the U.S.R.S.

Alvira Tennessee Hullett Brandt died on April 23, 1947, of a dropsicle condition of the heart after an illness of five days.

The subject of the above sketch is the only member of the Indiana line to use the "D" in the name.



RECORD OF JACOB BRANT IV

son of

Jacob Brant III & Minerva Overlin

Jacob Brant IV

b 8-24-1862 Spencer Co. Indiana

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	d	1-21-1921	Petaluma, California
	m	10-13-1887	Lexington, Nebraska
Nancy Elizabeth Pyrtle	b	4- 3-1867	Martinsville, Virginia
	d	11-16-1938	San Francisco, California
Children			
LeRoy Verne Brant	b	12- 3-1890	Lexington, Nebraska
	d		
	m	2-- 2-1914	Ft. Bragg, California
Beatrice Clayton	divorced	7-30-1936	San Jose, California
Majorie Louise Fitzloff	b	8-13-1901	St. Claire, Minnesota
	m	9-24-1937	
	d	8-19-1947	Monterey, California
		buried	San Jose, California
Ruth Mary Wellen	b	11-20-1918	Cincinnati, Ohio
	m	7-17-1948	
	d		
Dorothy F. Ruth Brant	b	2- 14-1894	Julesburg, Colorado
	m	8-27-1917	San Francisco, California
Carl D. Thomas	d	9-21-1886	Peoria, Illinois

Jacob Brant IV

d 8-24-1862

d 1-29-1921

m 10-13-1887

Nancy Elizabeth Pyrtle

b 4-3 -1067

d 11-16-1938

Jacob IV, youngest and fourth son of Jacob Brant III and Minerva Overlin Brant, was born on a tobacco farm in Spencer County Indiana, August 24, 1862. He lived on the farm until the age of nineteen, when he went to Lexington, Nebraska. There he operated several farms for Dr. F. J. Rosenberg, the town's leading physician. The Rosenbergs, both devoted church people, were a high influence for good on Jacob and led him to become a devout Christian.

In 1884 he entered the employ of E.M.F. Leflang Milling Company, operating first in Lexington and later in Julesburg, Colorado.

He married Nancy Elizabeth Pyrtle on October 13, 1887, at Lexington, Nebraska. The couple resided first in Lexington, later in Julesburg, Colorado where he became foreman of the Julesburg section gang for the Union Pacific Railroad. This position he retain-

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ed until 1895 when he was given an identical appointment at Snyder, Colorado. After remaining in Snyder for some ten months he purchased the Fort Morgan Hotel in Fort Morgan, Colorado, which he successfully operated for approximately a year. In August 1897, he returned to Julesburg, where he bought out the stock and good will of Woolman's Grocery and operated the store, adding a line of feeds, dairy supplies and furniture, until 1907. In 1905 he built a large cement block building to house his business.

He was an active member in the Methodist Church of Julesburg from the time of its inception in the late 80's until 1907 when he moved to Petaluma, California, and joined the Methodist Church there. Often, in the early Julesburg days, he arranged for a Minister to visit Julesburg to hold services and if the collection was deemed insufficient by him to recompense the clergyman he added thereto from his own pocket. If there was not enough coal for heating the auditorium in which the services were held he brought coal from his own supply. He assisted in building the first church edifice in the early nineties and when it was destroyed by fire in 1905 he was the most active member in raising funds for its rebuilding. It was through his leadership that the new brick church was dedicated free of debt and without any plea being made for funds on the day of its dedication.

In the early 1900's he joined the Masonic Fraternity, later becoming Master of his Lodge, and for many years its secretary. He also belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Modern Woodmen of the World.

In 1907, the Brant family left Julesburg for Petaluma, California. There Jacob Brant purchased a poultry ranch on which he ran several thousand head of chickens. He joined the Petaluma Poultry Association and served as its secretary for a number of years. In 1916 he underwent a severe operation for Emphysema and after a year of illness he spent a 12 months with his daughter Ruth near Santa Rosa. When she removed to Los Angeles, he returned to Petaluma, greatly improved in health. On January 21, 1921, he succumbed to peritonitis, after an emergency operation for stomach ulcer. He was buried in Cypress Hill Cemetery, Petaluma, California, where his wife was laid beside him seventeen years later.

Jacob Brant was outstanding in integrity, loyalty, mercy, idealism and generosity, in every respect a Christian Gentleman.

His wife, Nancy Elizabeth Pyrtle Brant was the third daughter of James A. Pyrtle and Elizabeth Davis Pyrtle. Her history will be found in "Early Virginia Families-Pyrtle, Davis, Turner, Martin" by

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E. Ruth Pyrtle. These books are available in all State Libraries. She was born April 3, 1867, and lived a life of outstanding service in whatever community she resided. She was a Methodist and an active member of the W.C.T.U. She belonged to the Women's Relief Corps, Eastern Star and Order of Amaranth. Whatever was for the general good of the community was where her work lay and where she could be found. She died November 16, 1938, in San Francisco, California, of Stricture of the Intestines.

To this union were born two children, LeRoy Verne Brant and Dorothy F. Ruth Brant.

LeRoy Verne Brant, born December 3, 1890, in Lexington, Nebraska, was educated in Julesburg, Colorado, and Petaluma, California. A year after graduation from high school he entered the College of the Pacific, San Jose, California, where he took his Bachelor of Music degree in 1913. He was a member of the Petaluma Methodist Church where he was organist from 1909 to 1912. On February 2, 1914, he married Beatrice Clayton of San Jose, California.

He established himself in Fort Bragg, California, where he followed his profession as teacher and organist and was head of the Music department in the high and grammar schools until 1917 when he moved to San Jose. He became organist and choirmaster of the First Baptist Church there until 1921 when he became organist and choirmaster of Trinity Episcopal Church until 1945. He joined Trinity Episcopal Church and is a member there. He is a member of Friendship Lodge No. 210, Free and Accepted Masons and of the Scottish Rite Bodies in San Jose, holding the degree of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. He is organist of the Scottish Rite Bodies. In 1920 he founded the Institute of Music in San Jose. He earned his degree of Associate of the American Guild of Organists in 1919 and in 1924 Master of Music in the Chicago Musical College. In 1931 he earned his Life Certificate in music in California Secondary Schools, in 1937 the degree of Associate of the Trinity College of London, in 1942 he was the first person in California to be granted (upon examination) the degree of Choirmaster of The American Guild of Organists. He has conducted the San Jose Municipal Chorus since 1924. He is the author of two volumes of verse, "Beauty" in 1930; "Immortal Singers" in 1936. He was for many years Music Columnist and Critic on the San Jose Mercury Herald, and is a frequent contributor to the Etude. In 1946 he flew to Washington D. C. for an exclusive interview with President Harry Truman on music for the Etude. This interview was held in the famous Oval Room in the White House. In 1948 he

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flew to Finland for an interview with Sibelius and to England for an interview with Vaughn William. Both interviews were for the Etude. He and his wife were entertained in the homes of Sibelius and Vaughan Williams.

LeRoy V. Brant was divorced from his wife, Beatrice Clayton on July 30, 1936. He married Marjorie Louise Fitzloff on September 24, 1937. She was born August 13, 1901, in St. Claire, Minn. to Emma Gerlich Fitzloff and John Charles Fitzloff. They moved to New England, North Dakota 1920 where she graduated from high school. She graduated as Bachelor of music from the Minneapolis School of Music, majoring in public school Music. In 1931 she graduated from Dickinson State Teachers College. She had studied voice with Esther Osborne in New York and Henry L. Perry in San Francisco. She died of a heart attack August 19, 1947. On July 17, 1948, LeRoy Brant was married to Ruth Mary Wellen who was born November 20, 1918, to Albert John Wellen and Viola Katherine Wellen (nee Buening), in Cincinnati, Ohio. Other members of her family were Kathryn Teresa Wellen, born August 12, 1911, Cincinnati, Ohio; John Herman Wellen, born November 26, 1912, Cincinnati; Albert John Wellen, born December 5, 1922. The sister Kathryn married a prominent surgeon of Cincinnati, Edward James Bender.

As a child, Ruth Mary Wellen Brant attended school in Cincinnati. She graduated from Mother of Mercy (H.S.) Academy. She majored in business in Xavier University and University of Cincinnati. She entered the business world in Cincinnati, during World War II served in Washington D.C., being promoted to position of Administrative Asst. in War Army Ordnance Dept., Chicago. She moved to California in 1943, became secretary treasurer of Lawrence Meat Co., of Santa Clara, and stockholder in same. She joined the San Jose Municipal Chorus in 1944, and in 1947 was elected president of same, serving two years.

Dorothy F. Ruth Brant, born February 14, 1894, in Julesburg, Colorado, was educated in Julesburg and Petaluma, California. She studied voice, piano and organ. She was soloist for several years in the Congregational Church in Petaluma and for many civic organizations. She was an active member of the Women's Relief Corps and many church organizations. When she was twenty she decided to study nursing and entered Trinity Hospital in San Francisco, but because of delicate health did not finish the course. She worked at things less strenuous and for a year was manager for the Women's Ready to Wear Department of the Raymond Bros. Store in Petaluma, California. In 1918 she organized emergency hospitals in Northern

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California, for the Red Cross to help care for Influenza patients during the epidemic.

She was married to Carl Dane Thomas on August 27, 1917, in the Wesley M. E. Church in San Francisco, California. They lived at Wikiup, near Santa Rosa, California, for some time and then her husband took a university course and she did nursing.. In 1921 she joined Encinitas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Monrovia, California. No. 119691. In 1928 she accepted a position as receptionist in Los Angeles, California, with Dr. Louis Jaques, an optometrist, and his several assistant doctors. In 1930 she joined the Ebell Club of Los Angeles, California, and was an active member until 1936 when they moved to Arcadia, California. In 1934 she offered her services to Childrens Hospital in Los Angeles, where she worked as a volunteer in the clinic for two years. In 1936 they moved to Arcadia, California, to pioneer a ten acre ranch. She joined the Order of the Eastern Star, Arcadia Chapter No. 471 in June 1944.



CARL DANE THOMAS

Carl Dane Thomas was born September 21, 1886, in Peoria, Illinois, to Hattie Stanley Thomas and Charles V. Thomas. He received his early education in Peoria and in 1906 came to California. After a short stay in Southern California, he moved to Petaluma where he started in the poultry business. He owned and operated his own hatchery until 1915 when it burned. He then went to Davis where he was foreman of the poultry department of Davis Agricultural School of the University of California until September 1917, when he went to Camp Lewis in Washington with the 91st Division of the National Army. After a short time he was honorably discharged on account of having had empyema. He then went to Santa Rosa, California, as Superintendent of the Poultry Department of Wikiup Rancho. After two years he went to Davis, California, and completed a three year course in agriculture at the University Farm School of the University of California. He then took a position as appraiser for the Federal Land Bank of Berkeley, California. After a year he moved to Los Angeles and worked as a cabinet maker for Parks Lumber Co. He entered the Los Angeles School System as an Agriculture Teacher in February 1925 and after four years became a principal in the Los Angeles School System. He is a graduate of Bradley Polytechnic Institute of Peoria, Illinois, a graduate

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of the University Farm School of the University of California and of the University of Southern California where he graduated in 1935 "cum Laude", after which he finished a year of post graduate work. In 1936 he bought a ranch in Arcadia, California.

Carl D. Thomas joined Sunset Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons No. 352, Los Angeles March 26, 1929, filling several offices of various times. He demitted to Arcadia Lodge No. 547. He is also a life member of the National Education Association of which his wife's Aunt, E. Ruth Pyrtle, was a past president. He is also a life member of the Department of Elementary Principals Association and other education and civic organizations. He is eligible to join the Sons of the American Revolution through his ancestor Daniel Cressy, born October 11, 1730. The Daughters of the American Revolution, have placed a monument at the grave of Daniel Cressy in Bradford, New Hampshire. Cressy enlisted in John Stark's regiment in 1775. He died in Bradford, New Hampshire 1817. Carl D. Thomas was chosen by election of U.S.C. to the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and belongs also to Phi Delta Kappa.



LULU ADDIE BRANT

daughter of

Jacob Brant III & Minerva Overlin

Lulu Addie Brant	b	8-23-1865	Spencer Co., Indiana
	d	7-17-1898	buried Laramie, Wyoming
	m	5-20-1885	

Isaac Minor Frye	b	1- 1-1860	
	d	5-12-1943	buried Bernie, Missouri

children

Clarence Donald Frye	b	6-18-1886	Nebraska
	d	7- 4-1917	Stoddard Co. Missouri
			buried at Bernie, Missouri

Edna Pearl Frye	b	10-22-1886	Nebraska
	d		

married	m	3- 8-1908	
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Claud Columbus Cox	b	11-19-1881	Bloomfield, Missouri
	d	12-26-1936	Auto Accident

children

Edna Pearl Frye & Claude C. Cox

Maud Io Cox	b	10- 2-1909	Stoddard Co. Missouri
	d		

married	m	10- 2-1929	
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THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

Lee Cecil Dalton	b d	8- 7-1907	
		children	
Dorothy Lee Dalton	b	6- 6-1931	d
Lloyd Lewis Dalton	b	2-24-1934	
	d	5- 8-1953	Auto accident
Lloyd Eldon Cox	b d	5-12-1911	
married	m	8- 2-1935	Jackson, Missouri
Dorothy Mallory	b d	10-29-1912	
		children	
John Butler Cox			
	b	4-18-1936	d
James Eldon Cox			
	b	4- 7-1939	d
Janet Louise Cox			
	b	8-21-1942	d
Wm. Eugene Cox	b	4-24-1913	d
married	m	1949	
Metta Bolin	b		d
		children	
Glen Ray Cox	b	9- 5-1952	d
Harley Claud Cox	b	12-30-1914	Defense work, Denver, Colo.
	c	6- 9-1944	Air plane crash
married	m	3-19-1938	
Lorette Wampler	b		d
		children	
		Patricia Gay Cox	b 1-14-1943 d
	Claud C. Cox & Edna Pearl Frye (cont.)		
Dorsey Lee Cox	b	12- 1-1916	d
married	m	3-19-1938	
Helen Gross	b	11-11-1910	d
Cleatie Donald Cox	b	1-11-1919	d
married	m	5-11-1945	
Margaret Miller	b		d
Warren Otto Cox	b	6-26-1921	d
married	m	7- 1-1944	
Nina Benfield	b		
		divorced 4-22-1947	

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	children	
(son)	b	5- 6-1945 d
married	m	
Alvena Tucker	b	d

children	
(daughter)	
	b 6-..6-1948 d



LULU ADDIE BRANT FRYE b-8-23-1865
 daughter of m-5-20-1885
Jacob Brant III & d-7-17-1898
Minerva Overlin

Lulu Addie Brant was born in Spencer County, Indiana, on August 23, 1865. After the death of her father, Jacob Brant III on March 5, 1878, she and her younger sister, Blanche, went with their mother, Minerva Overlin Brant, to Cozad, Nebraska. It was in Cozad, that Lulu Addie Brant met Isaac Minor Frye. He was born in Waseeka, Illinois, on January 1, 1860, and he died in Missouri on May 12, 1943. He is buried at Bernie, Missouri. They were married on May 20, 1885, in Cozad. Three children were born to them. Clarence Donald was born on June 6, 1886. He died on July 4, 1917, and is buried at Bernie, Missouri. Pearle Frye was born October 22, 1889. A baby, Hattie Clemintine died in infancy. When Clarence Frye was five and his sister, Pearl, two their father took the two children and went to Dade County, Missouri. This was without the knowledge of the mother, who never knew where the children were or what happened to them. She lived for five years during which she grieved for them. She was married about eight months before she died, in 1898, to a man by the name of Ratton. She is buried in Laramie, Wyoming. Isaac Minor Frye secured a divorce in April 1893, and married Laura Wilson November 5, 1893. Pearl Frye was a beautiful girl with blond curls and blue eyes. All knowledge of her mother's family was kept from her for many years. She has six half-brothers and two half-sisters. She married Claud Columbus Cox on March 8, 1908. He was born on November 19, 1881, in Bloomfield Missouri, and died on December 26, 1936. He was killed in an automobile wreck. Seven children were born to them, one daughter and six sons.

Maud lo Cox, was born October 2, 1909. She married Lee Cecil Dalton on October 2, 1929. He was born August 7, 1907. They have a small grocery store in Sturdivant, Missouri. They also keep

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

the post office. They have two children, Dorothy Lee born June 6, 1931, and Lloyd Lewis born February 24, 1934. Dorothy graduated from Cape Girardeau College on May 18, 1953.

The first son was born May 12, 1911. His name was Lloyd Eldon Cox. He married Dorothy Mallory, born October 29, 1912.

They were married August 2, 1935, in Bloomfield, Missouri. They live in Burley, Idaho. They own their own home and about an acre of ground. They have a berry patch and sell lots of them. Lloyd also buys and fattens hogs. He works in a big lumber yard as a carpenter. They have three children. Johnie Butler Cox was born April 18, 1936, in Jackson, Missouri. James Elden Cox was born April 17, 1939, in Burley, Idaho. Janet Louise Cox was born August 8, 1942 in Burley, Idaho.

Third Child

William Eugene Cox was born April 24, 1913. He is unmarried and works as a helper on a big farm in Richfield, Idaho.

Fourth Child

Harley Claud Cox was born December 30, 1914. He graduated from Cape Girardeau College. He married Lorette Wampler on March 19, 1938. She was born February 11, 1914. He lived in Denver, Colorado, where he was in Civilian Defence Work training boys for flying until he was killed in an air plane crash on June 8, 1944. He left one daughter, Patricia Gay, born January 14, 1943, in Denver, Colorado.

Fifth Child

Dorsey Lee Cox was born December 1, 1916. He was married December 31, 1941, to Helen Gross, who was born November 11, 1910. He works with the Wright Air Plane Motor Co., in New Jersey.

Sixth Child

Cleatie Donald Cox was born January 11, 1919. He married Margaret Miller on May 11, 1945. He works in a shoe factory in Dexter, Missouri.

Seventh Child

Warren Otto Cox was born June 20, 1921. He married Nina Benfield on July 1, 1944. They had one son born May 6, 1945. They were divorced on April 7, 1947. He married Alvena Tucker on April 22, 1947. He served in the Army for a few months. He was stationed at Fort Beale, California. When the farm help situation became critical he was given Honorable Discharge and sent home to help his mother who was alone on the farm. The farm

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

consists of one hundred and twenty acres, twelve acres of fine timber. It is about one hundred and seventy-five miles south of St. Louis. It is about a three hour drive. It is one and a half miles south of Swinton which is the Post Office address.

"Mickey" Dalton, son of Lee Cecil Dalton and Maud Cox, died May 8, 1935, in an automobile accident. He graduated from high school in advance, May 6th 1952.



BLANCHE ALICE BRANT

daughter of

Jacob Brant III & Minerva Overlin

Blanche Alice Brant	b 9- 5-1871		
	d 9-22-1935		
	m		Nebraska
Jesse Heldenbrand			divorced
	b 10- 7-1867		
	d 11-21-1929		
	children		
Pearle Heldenbrand	b 7-13-1892	d	
Floyd Heldenbrand	b 3- 5-1894	d	
Rae Heldenbrand	b 3- 2-1899	d	
Fae Heldenbrand	b 3- 2-1899	d	
Opal Heldenbrand	b 2-19-1903	d	
(2nd husband of B. A. Brant)			
L. M. Williams	b	d	
	children		
Ralph Williams	b 8-15-1907	d	
Evelyn Williams	b 10- 8-1910	d	
Harold Williams	b 10-13-1912	d	Oct. 1944
	200 Mi. off Chinese Coast.		
	Oct. 1944 on a Japanese Prison ship		

Pearle Heldenbrand			
married	m 7- 8-1915		
Stoey S. Wells	b 3-22-1888	d 12-19-1949	

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children

Darlene Wells	b	1- 8-1917	d
married	m	6- 5-1939	
LeRoy Botkin	b	4-10-1914	d
Max Wells	b	5-17-1918	d
married (1st wife)	m	..9-7-1938	
Grace Lofton	b	12-29-1918	
married (2nd wife)			
LaVonne Hansen	b		d
	m	1-23-1942	

Grand children of Pearl H. Wells & Stoey S. Wells

Sue Ann Botkin	b	3-22-1941	d
Mary Lee Botkin	b	5-4-1945	d
James Leroy Botkin	b	1946	d
Maxine Dianne Wells	b	12-29-1941	d 12-29-1941
Richard Stoey Wells	b	10-30-1943	c
Bruce Hanson Wells	b	12- 7-1946	d



BLANCHE ALICE BRANT

daughter of Jacob Brant III & Minerva Overlin

b 9- 5-1871

Spencer County, Indiana

d 9-22-1935

Scottsbluff, Nebraska

m Jesse B. Heldenbrand

12-24-1890

m Louis Morton Williams
1908

Marysville, Kansas

Children of Blanche Alice Brant and Jesse Morton Heldenbrand

Pearle Ina Heldenbrand

Born July 13, 1892, at Lexington, Nebraska

Died

Member Methodist Church

Sierra Blanca Chapter, Order of Eastern Star No. 43 at
Alamosa, Colorado.

Graduated Eustis High School at Eustis, Nebraska

Attended Junior College at North Platte, Nebraska

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Colorado State College at Greeley, Colorado

Adams State College at Alamosa, Colorado

Began teaching at sixteen years of age. Taught seven years in Nebraska Schools and twenty two years in Colorado Schools.

Now teaching at Alamosa Junior High, seventh grade at Alamosa, Colorado (September 1949)

Married Stoey Sylvester Wells at Lexington, Nebraska, July 8, 1915.

Stoey Sylvester Wells

Educated in Miller, Nebraska, schools. Appointed to Colorado State Highway position in April 1928. Transferred to San Luis Valley in March 1937—To Alamosa, Colorado, in March 1949.

Born March 22, 1888, at Oberlin, Kansas.

Died December 19, 1949, Colorado

Married Pearle Ina Heldenbrand at Lexington, Neb., July 8, 1915.

Children Darlene Maryalice and Maxin DeVerr.

Darlene Maryalice Wells

daughter of Pearle Ina Heldenbrand &
grand-daughter of Blanche Alice Brant

Stoey Sylvester Wells

Great grand-daughter of Jacob Brant III

& Minerva Overlin

Born: January 8, 1917, at Stapleton, Nebraska

Died

Graduated Cheyenne County High School April 19, 1934

Attended Colorado Woman's College at Denver, Colorado 1934-3

Graduated June 1936 received

Associate in Science Degree

Graduated Adams State College June 5, 1939, B.A. Degree

Married LeRoy Botkin at Alamosa, Colorado, June 5, 1939

LeRoy Botkin

Born Lawton, Oklahoma, April 10, 1914

Died

Attended Cameron College in Lawton and

Adams State College at Alamosa, Colorado

Graduated Adams State College June 2, 1940

Became Radar Expert at Holabird Base in Maryland (Baltimore)
from 1943-1947

Returned to Lawton 1947 and became an Insurance and Real Estate
Agent

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Children of Darlene Maryalice Wells & LeRoy Botkin

Sue Ann Botkin . b 3-22-1941

Mary Lee Botkin b 5- 4-1945

James LeRoy Botkin b 20- 1946

Maxin DeVerr Wells

son of

Pearle Ina Heldenbrand Wells Stoey Sylvester Wells

Grandson of Blanche Alice Brant

Born May 17, 1918, at Stapleton, Nebraska

Died

Graduated Cheyenne County High School - May 17, 1935

University of Denver - June 7, 1939

Engineer at Consolidated Aircraft Company

San Diego, California 1940-1942

Interstate Engineering & Aircraft Company

El Segundo, California, and DeKalb, Illinois 1942 - 1944

Entered United States Navy at Kansas City, Missouri - July 13, 1944

Trained Plattsburg, New York, on Lake Champlain

Overseas September 1944 from San Francisco, California

In New Guinea - September - January 1945

In invasion of Luzon - in January 1945

Returned March 15 1946

August 1949 Flight Test Engineer for North American Aviation
Jet Planes (Sabres) at Muroc Air Force Base, Muroc,
California.

Married Grace Adella Lofton at Taos, New Mexico, September 7
1938 Grace died in San Diego, California, December 29,
1941, of childbirth. Maxine Dianne, born and died the
same day.

Married LaVonne Hansen at Los Angeles, California, January 23,
1943.

LaVonne Hansen Wells

Born August 19, 1921, at Wayne, Nebraska

Died

Attended Wayne State Teachers College at Wayne, Nebraska

Married Maxin D. Wells at Los Angeles, California, Jan. 23, 1943

Children Richard Stoey Wells-born October 30, 1943, at DeKalb,
Illinois

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Bruce Hansen Wells-born December 7, 1946, at San Diego California.

Floyd Heldenbrand

second child of Blanche Alice Brant
& Jesse B. Heldenbrand

Born March 5, 1894, Cozad, Nebraska

Died

Married Grace May 8, 1917, Longmont Colorado

Lives in San Diego, California

Fae Adeline Heldenbrand

third child of Blanche Alice Brant
& Jesse B. Heldenbrand

Born Lexington, Nebraska, March 2, 1899 (twin)

Died

Married John L. Beckins at Stapleton, Nebraska, February 20, 1920

Children two sons: Robert and James

Rae Nelson Heldenbrand

third child: twin of Fae Adeline Heldenbrand

Born March 2, 1899, Lexington, Nebraska

Married Bessie

Died

Children two sons: James and Bruce

Married Evelyn Lives in San Diego, California

Opal Vera Heldenbrand

daughter of Blanche Alice Brant
& Jesse B. Heldenbrand

Born February 19, 1903

Died

Married Guy Welch at Cozad, Nebraska

Children Marjorie, Ronald and Dorothy

Ralph Chester Williams

son of Blanche Alice Williams
& Louis Morton Williams

Born August 15, 1909, in Biglow, Kansas

Died

moved to Scottsbluff where he has lived most of his life.

Married Ethel Suring, Born on June 7, 1914

one son, Ralph Lynn born November 5, 1940

one daughter, Vivki Leigh born September 3, 1949

Scottsbluff, Nebraska.

Methodist

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Masonic Affiliation

Blue Lodge Camp Clark Lodge No. 285 Bridgeport, Nebraska
Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite 32 Degree Madison, Wisconsin
York Rite Warren Chapter No. 8 Royal Arch Mason Green Bay,
Wisconsin.

Palestine Commandery No 20 K. T. Green Bay, Wisconsin
Order of The Eastern Star

March Washington Chapter No, 124 Green Bay, Wis.

Ethel Suring Williams, wife of Ralph Williams was born on June 7, 1914, in Suring, Wisconsin. She is a graduate of Suring High School and Green Bay Vocational School. Her grand parents were early settlers in Wisconsin and pioneers in the lumber and logging industry. She is a member of the Methodist Church and active in the Order of Eastern Star.



"LET US DIE TO MAKE MEN FREE"

Mr. Ralph Williams
Bridgeport, Nebr.

Dear Mr. Williams:

The International Red Cross has transmitted to this government an official list obtained from the Japanese Government, after long delay, of American Prisoners of War who were lost while being transported northward from the Philippine Islands on a Japanese ship which was sunk on 24 October 1944. It is with deep regret that I inform you that your brother, P.F.C. Harold M. Williams was among those lost when the sinking occurred and, in the absence of any probability of survival, must be considered to have lost his life. He will be carried on the records of the War Department as killed in action 24 October 1944. The evidence of his death was received on June 16, 1945, the date upon which his pay will terminate and his accounts will be closed.

The information available to the War Department is that the vessel sailed from Manila, Philippine Islands, on 11 October 1944 with 1775 prisoners of war aboard. On 24 October 1944 the vessel was sunk by submarine action in the South China Sea over 200 miles from the Chinese coast which was the nearest land. Five of the prisoners escaped in a small boat and reached the coast. Four others have been reported lost. Absence of detailed information as to what happened to other individual prisoners and the known circumstances of the incident lead to a conclusion that all other prisoners listed by the Japanese as aboard the vessel perished.

-It is with deep regret that I must notify you of this unhappy cul-

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mination of the long period of anxiety and suffering you have experienced. You have my heart felt sympathy.

Sincerely yours,
J. O. Ulio
Major General
The Adjutant General
of the Army
Received June 29, 1945

Jacob Brant II

b 1800
d 11-7-1833
m

Ann
b 1797
d 11-27-1837

dates from tombstones
Baker's Creek Cemetery
Spencer Co. Indiana

CHILDREN OF JACOB II & HIS WIFE ANN

Patsy Brant, who married a man by the name of Hicks, who died;
then a man by the name of J. O. Gardner

Jane Brant, who married Lewis Herrell

Jacob Brant III who married Minerva Overlin

CHILDREN OF JANE BRANT & LEWIS HERRELL

Martha Jane Herrell b 7-12-1860
d 2-10-1897 Richland Co. Illinois
married m 3-2-1884 Eureka, Indiana by
Walter Winkler

James B. Meadows b - 1862
d 1940

Cynthia Herrell b 6-27-1853
married d 3-16-1893

Payton Thrailkill m 4-1 -1880 1st husband

William Middleton b 5-24-1843 2nd husband
d 3-27-1934

Mary Herrell b
d 2- 2-1885

married m

Jesse Scammahorn

William Herrell b
d

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CHILDREN OF MARTHA JANE HERRELL & JAMES B. MEADOWS

Stella Jane Meadows	b	2-2-1885	Spencer Co. Indiana
married	m	- 1906	d
Wm. Martin Egger	b		d
John Lewis Meadows	b	11- 6-1886	Spencer Co. Indiana
married	m		d 3-25-1938
Lolo B. Johnston	b		d
Fredrick Meadows	b	1- 2-1891	Spencer Co. Indiana
married	d		
Ruth O. Wheeler	b		Olney, Illinois
	d		

CHILDREN OF CYNTHIA HERRELL & PAYTON THRAILKILL (1st husband)

Willie Thrailkill	b	d
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CHILDREN OF CYNTHIA HERRELL & WILLIAM MIDDLETON (2nd husband)

Cordelia Agnes Middleton	b	4-23-1883
	d	12-13-1940
	m	6- 8-1904
Dr. John Clay Glackman	b	7-7 -1878
	d	4-23-1883

CHILDREN OF STELLA JANE MEADOWS & WM. MARTIN EGGLER

Martha Marie Egger	b	d
	m	
Donald Tompson (1)	b	
	divorced	
Sgt. Carl Tarplay (2)	b	d

GRANDCHILDREN OF STELLA JANE MEADOWS & WILLIAM MARTIN EGGLER

Billy Don Tompson	b	d
Jimmie Dale Tompson	b	d
Jerry Lynn Tarplay	b	d

GRAND CHILDREN OF MARTHA JANE HERRELL & JAMES B. MEADOWS

Walter Brust an adopted son of John Lewis Meadows &
Lola B. Johnston

	b	d
Marion Fredrick Meadows	b	5-20-1915

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married	d		
	m	7-12-1942	
Anna Murphy Norris	b		d
James Lowell Meadows	b	8- 5-1918	d
married	m	9- 3-1939	
June Summerfield	b		
	d		
Darla June Meadows		4- 2-1942	
	d		

Jacob Brant III had two sisters. Patsy married a man named Hicks, and after his death, married a man named Gardner. Jane married Lewis Herrell. They had three children. Anne, Cynthia and a son named William. Anne married James Meadows and had Stella, Fred, and John. Stella married William Egger, they live in Olney, Illinois. Cynthia married Payton Thrailkill. They had one son named Willie. Mr. Thrailkill died and she married William Middleton. They had one daughter, Cordelia.

Dr. John Clay Glackman	b	7- 7-1878	
Cordelia Middleton	d	4-23-1883	
	m	6- 8-1904	

CHILDREN

Magladra Glackman	b	6-18-1905	
	d		
	m	10- 7-1924	
Taylor J. Pyle	b	8-24-1904	
	d		
	Janelia Elizabeth	b	12-28-1926 d
Clayta Ginevera Glackman	b	8-13-1906	
	d		
	m	2-22-1925	
Paul Hargis	b	2-13-1900	
	Dorothy Ellen	b	10-10-1926 d
Dr. John C. Glackman Jr.	b	1-26-13	
	d		
	m	6-27-38	
Joan McDonnell	b	5- 2-1913	
	d		
	John C. Glackman III		
	b	11-11-1939	d
	Sharon Ann Glackman		
	b	5-15-1941	d



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(The following is a copy of a clipping from the Rockport Journal
Friday, December 20, 1940)

MRS. GLACKMAN SR. DIES AT HOME HERE

Grand-daughter of Jane Brant Herrell

Death has again entered our community and taken from our midst one of southern Indiana's most prominent women.

Cordelia Agnes Middleton, wife of Dr. John C. Glackman, answered the call of the Master at her home in Rockport, Dec. 13, 1940, at 7:45 p.m. at the age of 57 years, 7 months and 20 days

She was the only child of Cynthia Herrell and William Middleton and was born April 23, 1883, on a farm near Hatfield.

She was preceded in death by her mother, father and a half-brother.

After attending school in Spencer county and graduating from Rockport High School, she attended Oakland City College for two years and then Franklin College at Franklin, where later she graduated and was a member of the Pi Phi Sorority there.

On June 8, 1904, she was united in marriage to Dr. John C. Glackman and to this union were born three children, Magladra Pyle, Clayta Hargis and John C. Glackman, Jr. She is survived by her husband, Dr. John C. Glackman, Sr, their three children and three grand-children, Dorothy Hargis, Janelia Pyle and John C. Glackman, III, along with other relatives and a host of friends.

Cordelia Middleton Glackman has passed through that door where suffering ends. She has gone out into that other world of joy and light and beauty.

Death should not seem dark and cold and strange to us, because so many loved ones have passed through the same door.

If we who are left here could see beyond that door, as God can see, we would be braver knowing of her happiness there.

As a young girl she was converted and always lived as an exemplary Christian, devoted to her church. Her religion was beautifully expressed in her social circles and her home life.

It is not possible for written or spoken words to add to the appreciation of this woman's character.

Her unusual energy, her generosity, her loyalty to her family and friends and her untiring devotion to her kindred, all together formed a personality of such strength and individuality that her going leaves a vacancy which cannot be filled.

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It is enough to say that eyes will always soften at the mention of her name and that the memory of her will long cheer the lives of all who knew her.

She was a charming and talented woman, gifted with a marvelous speaking voice and was known throuout Indiana as a forceful public speaker.

She was a member of many clubs and civic organizations, devoting much time to affairs which were a benefit to her town and state.

She was third state president of the the Americen Legion Auxiliary, was the first president of the local unit, and was a national committee woman. She was Past Worthy Matron of Eureka Chapter Order of Eastern Star, a member of the Rockport Women's Club and numerous other organizations and church groups.

Always she was a devoted wife and mother and was especially devoted to her husband's aged mother and her three grandchildren.

Her passing is a community loss.

"God gave thee, He took thee, and He will restore thee,
And death has no sting, for the Savior has died".

B. V. E.

Funeral services were conducted at the home at 2 p.m. Sunday with Rev. Charles R. Query, assisted by the American Legion Auxiliary, officiating. The burial was at Sunset Hill Cemetery.



The Last Lap

The summer of 1952 was spent in the Mid-West with relatives and friends. A trip was made to Canada with Harry Townley Brant and wife where the authors of this book visited the Indian Pageant put on each year by the Six Nations. The Pageant depicted the moving of the Six Nations to the Grand River location near what is now Brantford, Canada.

The Old Baker's Creek Cemetery near Eureka, Luce Township was visited. It is in this cemetery that Jacob Brant the Second and his wife Ann lie buried. It was dates taken from these stones on

THE BRANT-OVERLIN SAGA

a visit to Indiana in 1942 that established the origin of the Brant Family of Indiana. It is also in this cemetery that William Overlin, the Fifer Boy of the American Revolution lies buried. The lovely pretentious monument erected more than a hundred years has been removed. The small marker erected by the Rockport Chapter of American Revolution was there. The base of the Family Stone remained, a mute reminder of vandalism. The cemetery was in a most unkept and neglected condition.

May the data in these pages be of vast service and interest to some member of a future generation curious about Forebears.

Inez Brant Leonard



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Brant, Marjorie L. Fitzloff	80	Croghan, Catherine	15
Brant, Mary	15	Curler, Arendt van	1
Brant, Mary or Mollie	VII, 11	Dalton, Dorothy Lee	86
Brant, Minerva (Overlin)	45	Dalton, Lee Cecil	86
Brant, Myrtle Joetta	38, 66	Dalton, Lloyd Lewis	86
Brant, Nickus	5, 20, 39	Dockwra, William	57
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Brant, Orlando	37, 66	Eggler, William Martin	96
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Brant, Ruth M. Wellen	80	Fisher, Anna Grace	67
Brant, Sarah	XI	Fisher, Edward Earl	67
Brant, Sebastian	VII	Fisher, Elizabeth Ann	67
Brant, The Fur Trader	7, 9, 39	Fisher, Eva Marie	67
Brant, Warren E.	67	Fisher, Grace Belle Brant,	
Breadalbai, Earl of	1	See Brant, Grace Isabella	
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Brown, Candance Lee	67	Fisher, Sue Ellen	67
Brown, Harold Edward	67	Fisher, Virgil Paul	67, 71
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Brust, Walter	96	Fitzloff, Marjorie Louise	80
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Clayton, Beatrice	80	George IV, King of England	19
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Comton, John	58	Glackman, Cordelia	97
Compton, More	58	Glackman, Magladra	97
Cox, Claud Columbus	85	Glackman, John Clay, M. D.	97
Cox, Cleatie Donald	86	Glackman John Clay Jr. M. D.	96, 97
Cox, Dorsey Lee	86	Glackman, John Clay III	97
Cox, Harley Claud	86	Glackman, Sharon Ann	97
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Cox, James Eldon	86	Haldimand, Gen. Frederick	18
Cox, Janet Louise	86	Hancock, Berla Lositer	XI
Cox, John Butler	86	Hansen, LaVonne	90
Cox, Lloyd Eldon	86	Hardesty, Selah Overlin	31

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Hatfield, Belle	41	Meadows, James Lowell	40, 97
Hawkins, Nancy	35	Meadows, Marion Fredrick	40, 98
Heldenrand, Bessie	93	Meadows, Stella Jane	40, 96
Heldenbrand, Bruce	93	Meadows, Walter Brust	40
Heldenbrand, Fae Adeline	38, 89, 98	Middleton, Cordella Agnes	96
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Johnson, Mary	12	Overlin, Mary	26
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